MacFormat ISSUE 209 Summer 2009

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>Mac >iPod >iPhone
>Issue 209 Summer 2009

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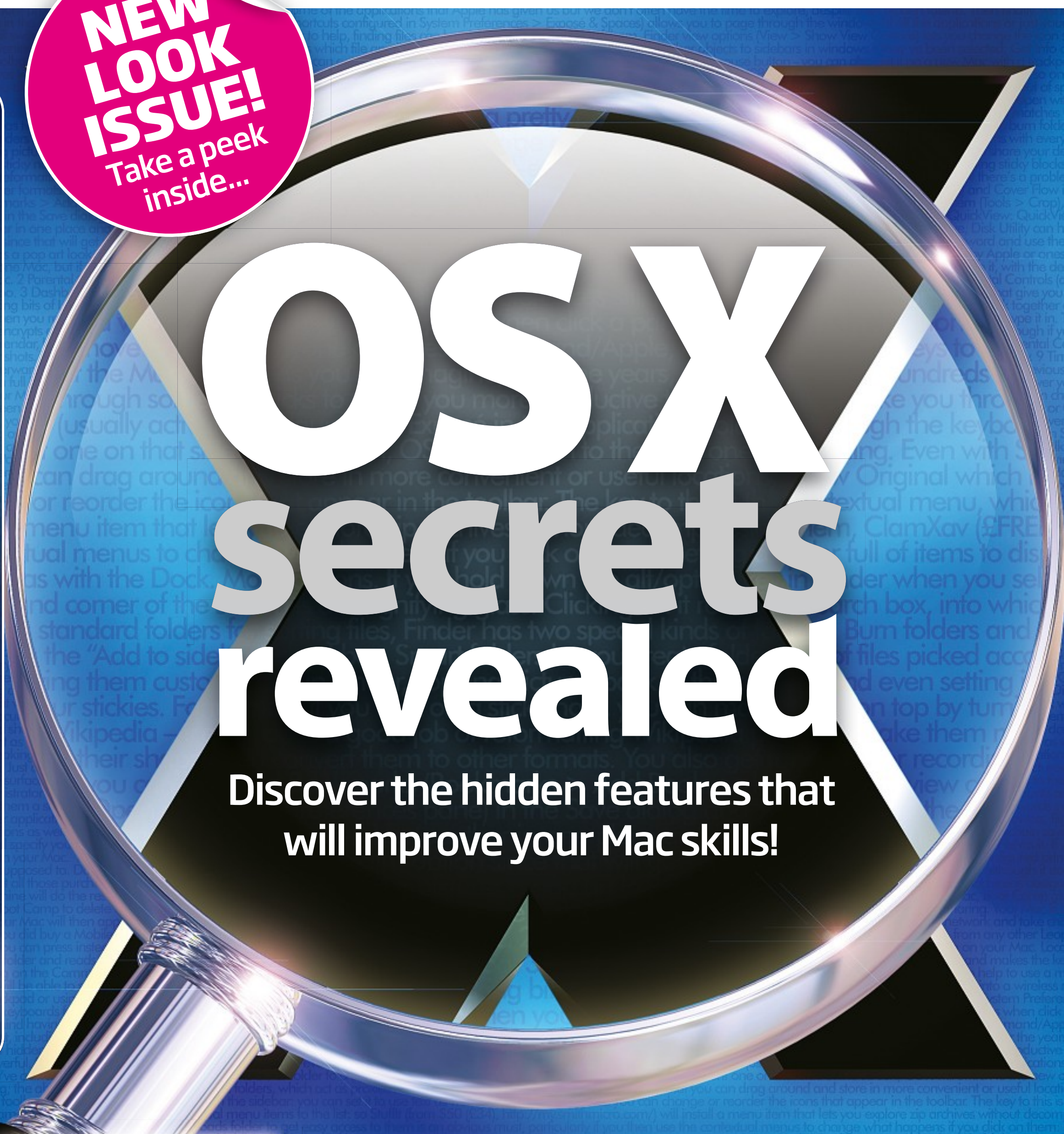

OS X secrets revealed

Discover the hidden features that will improve your Mac skills!

GROUP TEST

Mini DV cams
6 compact DV cameras tested

TUTORIALS

Lost in space!
Get into astronomy on a Mac

INVESTIGATED

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DISC INSIDE!

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to MacFormat, the UK's No. 1 Mac magazine!

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How well do you know your Mac? A complete beginner can usually get to grips with OS X in a matter of minutes, yet there's so much going on under the hood of Apple's operating system that even an experienced Mac user can still discover exciting new things all the time. That's what this issue's cover feature, starting on page 30, is all about. With our help you're going to discover a whole raft of new OS X secrets that will enable you to get more from your Mac.

But that's only a fraction of what we've got on offer for you this issue. We're also investigating satellite broadband – is it really a viable alternative to ADSL, and how well does it work on a Mac? And while we're on the subject of heavenly bodies, we also take a look at astronomy on the Mac, and find out how you can control your own telescope from your Mac. It's totally out of this world!

Of course, if your interests are a little more down to earth, then you'll love this issue's Q&A section where we tackle your Mac questions head on and provide you with some answers.

I hope you enjoy the issue and learn some valuable tips. We're back again on 24 June with more Mac advice, so see you then!

Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

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Deputy Editor

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Reviews Editor

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OS X expert

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Technical wizard

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All your Apple needs
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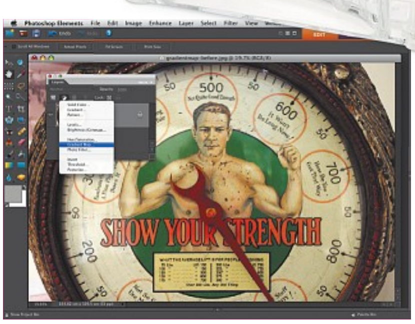
"We read up on phonograph amps and did a lot of guesswork in the early stages"

HOW PRODUCTS ARE BORN P68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"It doesn't need to shout to tell you how good it is"

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A design for life

Apple expands its development teams for future innovation

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Xserve

Apple's updated Xserve has double the power of previous systems, with Intel Xeon processors and a new architecture. Available with up to two 2.93GHz processors and 3TB of storage, prices begin at £2,399, including an unlimited client licence for Mac OS X Server 10.5 Leopard. An energy-friendly 128GB SSD version is also available.

Apple is ready to innovate again, after a month spent attracting world class console, processor and graphics chip experts to its design teams.

Apple now boasts a world class team focused on proprietary development of processor and graphics technologies. April 2008 saw Apple purchase PA Semi, founded by chip design genius Dan Dobberpuhl, who led development of the ARM processor family, used in the iPhone.

Apple continues to recruit stars from within the semiconductor industry. A search through LinkedIn reveals over 100 experts from companies like Intel, Samsung and Qualcomm now work at Apple.

Apple and Intel

While Steve Jobs has denied the company intends to ditch its current chip partner Intel, saying he hopes that their relationship will last "forever", Mac OS X must be part of the picture. Snow Leopard (the next version of OS X) will offer an advanced new graphics technology called OpenCL. This will enable your Mac to exploit the processor power of its graphics chip for non-graphics jobs, offering a major boost to performance for little in the way of power demands or component costs. Apple, Intel, NVIDIA and others are working to establish OpenCL as an open standard.

Perhaps with the ambition to create a platform for a new breed of powerful, low power devices, Apple has also begun recruiting graphics processor experts. The company last month hired Bob Drebin from

SONY
PLAYSTATION 3
XBOX 360
tv

Apple now has a world class team for processor, graphics and console design; is it planning to change its game?

APPLE IN PICTURES / iPhone goes on tour

Solo Syndication

iPHONE MUSIC
Singer-songwriter Gary Go will be using his iPhone in his set instead of guitars and drums while supporting Take That's Summer 2012 Stadium tour.

AMD as a Senior Director. Drebin played an essential part in development of the graphics processor inside Nintendo's Game Cube, as well as high performance graphics systems at Silicon Graphics. Coincidentally, last month Apple filed a patent for a Wii-like "remote wand for controlling the operations of a media system".

Apple has also hired AMD's Chief Technology Officer (graphics products) Raja Koduri, who served at ATI for eight years before AMD's purchase of the company. Speaking in January, he revealed console designers are racing to develop next-gen gaming systems with industry consensus seemingly favouring consistent programming modes – write software once and it will run on anything. Apple's OS X, now a proven mobile gaming platform, already plugs this gap.

Gaming isn't a traditional Apple market, though the success of the iPhone and iPod touch have attracted new relationships with games developers.

"The iPhone is already a powerful 3D gaming device with the technology inside it now, but we've only tapped the surface of what's capable as developers really get to grips with the hardware," observes Stuart Dredge, Editor of PocketGamer.biz.

More appointments

As we go to press, we learn Microsoft's Senior Director of Business, Insights and Strategy for Xbox, Richard Teversham has joined Apple. Teversham has been "an integral part of the success of Xbox in Europe and in the UK," Microsoft said.

These appointments combine with another, Mark Papermaster. A former Vice President at IBM, his appointment was delayed while Apple and IBM agreed to protect the latter firm's trade secrets. Papermaster now works as Apple's Senior Vice President of Devices Hardware Engineering.

The wealth of experience Apple now holds should open fresh opportunities for innovation beyond the Mac. Needham analyst Charles Wolf warns against speculation. "I find it almost useless to speculate on what Apple is going to do. The reason is I'm always wrong," he said. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

1 billion

Apps downloaded from the App Store in past nine months.

> *"We are pleased to report the best non-holiday quarter revenue and earnings in our history"*
>
> **Apple CFO, Peter Oppenheimer, on Apple's profits.**

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

Trent Reznor

www.nin.com

"You can buy The Downward ******* Spiral on iTunes, but you can't allow an iPhone app that may have a song with a bad word somewhere in it?"

Trent Reznor on Apple's App Store approval process.

Bill Evans

www.apple.com

"A PC's no bargain when it doesn't do what you want. The one thing that both Apple and Microsoft can agree on is that everyone thinks the Mac is cool."

Apple disses Microsoft ads.

Yair Reiner

www.opco.com

"Apple products aren't cheap, but the resiliency in their demand suggests they're creating a lot of value-not by cutting prices (like most peers) but primarily by increasing utility."

Analyst gets Apple's M.O.

Anssi Vanjoki

www.nokia.com

"Steve Jobs did a great service for the digital industry by focusing the attention where we wanted it to be - on mobile [Web] and content."

Nokia shows some respect for Steve Jobs.

Let us know if you've heard any great Apple quotes by emailing them to **macformat@futurenet.com**

Backing up a backup

Christopher Phin

There's no use pretending; I'm paranoid about backups. I have four – four! – backup systems running on my MacBook Pro.

When I get to work in the morning, I plug a single cable into the FireWire 800 port. This is connected to two drives: the smaller is called The Dump, effectively an area where I chuck huge files I'm not sure I want to get rid of yet. It's daisy-chained onto the main system, a hardware-RAID mirrored Western Digital My Book Pro II with two 500GB drives side by side. This system is split into two partitions, one of which is a target for *Time Machine*, and the other of which is used as a clone of my system, smart-updated before I leave work every day using *SuperDuper*.

Time Machine I love. It's great for flicking back through my files to grab earlier versions I may have overwritten, and the cloned *SuperDuper* system rocks – if my MacBook's hard disk dies, I just boot from the clone with zero down time.

Then there's online. I'm a big fan of *SugarSync*, which copies files to the company's servers – instantly (depending on size) as soon as they're saved – and can then download them to other computers, even between Macs and PCs, that are registered to the same account. It also has a brilliant browser-based interface and an iPhone client – from which you can email links to multi-gigabyte files – and the ability to share files.

> *"Time Machine is great for flicking through my files to grab earlier versions I may have overwritten"*

And now *Carbonite* – which I review on p89 – has been added to the mix. While *SugarSync*'s pricing structure is based on how much cloud storage you want, *Carbonite* is unlimited for around 10p a day. It's one-way – vanilla backup rather than *SugarSync*'s synchronisation paradigm – but it's cheap and convenient.

Here's the thing, though: not only do I think my behaviour is perfectly right and rational – a 500GB hard disk can be yours for £50 – but I want to add more. More redundancy, more security, less chance of me losing precious data. Who wants to sign up as my *CrashPlan* buddy? ●

MacFormat's Deputy Editor Christopher Phin has been preaching about backing up so much that he's crashed. If only there were backup solutions for people...

Jobs dumped the Newton on his return to Apple, but can we expect a new PDA?

>> NETBOOK RUMOURS

Touchscreen iPad for Apple?

Apple prepares to define new category

Apple continues to deny it will introduce a small form factor Mac netbook, but may have a card to play: the iPad.

Business Week reports the iPad will offer a large touchscreen for video and media playback, WiFi and no keyboard, though it should run some iPhone applications.

In April, a Changewave survey revealed netbooks are shoring up laptop sales across the PC industry. But 29% of US consumers buying a portable will choose a Mac over a PC.

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

19.9

Times iPhone apps are used before we stop using them.

Apple's no fan of existing netbooks, with Apple COO Tim Cook slating them for their "cramped keyboards, terrible software, junky hardware, very small screens," condemning these as "not something we'd put the Mac brand on," though he conceded Apple would step into the space if it felt it could "make an innovative contribution".

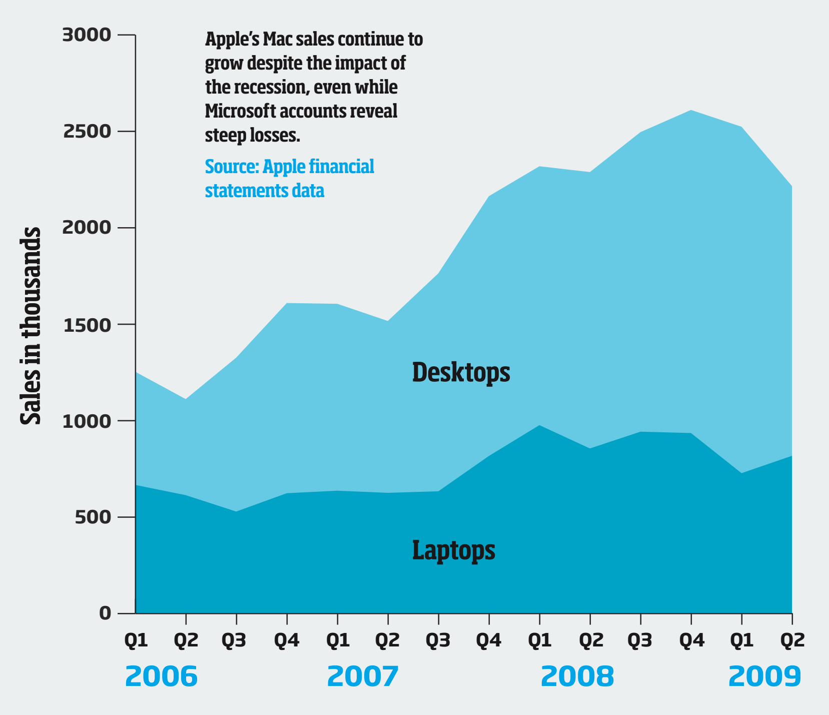
Apple CEO Steve Jobs is rumoured to have been engaged in developing the product during his health-based recluse from the company. Apple may even add a dose of 3G connectivity to the system, offering it at a discount through US mobile carrier, Verizon, some say.

DigiTimes reports Apple has already purchased significant quantities of touchscreens from Wintek for a device, which the Commercial Times claims will be manufactured by Quanta Computer.

What's the likely impact of this new category? A Business Week source warned: "We're talking about a device where people will say, 'Damn, why didn't we do this?' Apple is probably going to define the damn category."

AppleInsider in 2007 speculated Apple to be developing a reincarnation of its Newton MessagePad, equipped with support for the MultiTouch interface now popular on the iPhone and iPod touch, but with a much larger screen. But rumours of some form of tablet Mac began back in 2002, since when Apple has quietly patented several different design concepts for similar products. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS / Mac sales growth



Apple's Mac sales continue to grow despite the impact of the recession, even while Microsoft accounts reveal steep losses.

Source: Apple financial statements data

STEVE JOBS NEWS

See me, feel me

Jobs explains his return to Apple

Most of us have felt unappreciated at work, including Apple co-founder and CEO Steve Jobs.

Jobs was granted 7.5 million stock options by Apple in 2001. "It wasn't about the money," he says, "everybody likes to be recognized by his peers. I felt that the board wasn't really doing the same with me... I wanted them to do something, and so we talked about it. I thought I was doing a good job."

Jobs admitted this during a SEC investigation against former Apple General Counsel, Nancy Heinen. In 2006, Apple was investigated after revealing stock option grant irregularities. Jobs wasn't charged, but Heinen and former CFO, Fred Anderson were indicted.

Forbes obtained this using the Freedom of Information Act. It sheds light on Jobs and his return to Apple. He explains: "When Apple bought NeXT, Apple was pretty messed up... I was trying to help by getting some of the NeXT people into some jobs where they could help Apple, and that's pretty much all I was doing."

Jobs was later asked to take over leadership from Gil Amelio. He declined as he'd just taken Pixar public, leading to him becoming Apple's interim CEO (iCEO).

"I was concerned that Pixar was a newly public company with shareholders, employees, and I felt that – to my knowledge – there has never been a CEO of two public companies before. I felt if I took the job, Pixar shareholders and employees would think I was abandoning them."

Jobs eventually, "felt I had demonstrated to both companies that I could be the CEO of both". ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

24/7

Apple now offers 24 hour chat support to MobileMe members.

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Apple plans to release a budget iPhone and media tablet
Speculation Apple plans to diversify its range hots up. It makes sense for Apple to capitalise on the trend toward mobile devices, given the success of the iPhone.

HOT: YouTube support for future QuickTime releases
Snow Leopard seems set to extend QuickTime's reach as a multimedia hub, including the capacity to encode and upload video to the service.

NOT: iPhones not used for work
Compete claims 73% of iPhone users mainly use their device for entertainment, while 59% of those using other smartphones use them for work alone. We know most use iPhone for both, hinting these stats are flawed.

NOT: Apple axing retail staff
Reports claimed Apple reduced its retail staff by 1,600 in the last quarter. This isn't true, though it has reduced jobs made available to part-timers. It required more part-time help during the previous Christmas quarter.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

iPhone is everywhere, even stealing a few moments in US hit drama series Gossip Girl (ITV2, 9pm, Wednesdays) in recently screened episode Serena Also Rises. It's clutched in the hands of the leggy main character as she crosses the road, excited to be viewing a top designer at Fashion Week.

Spotted a Mac on TV? Email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it! Just put 'Telly' in the subject line.

Software piracy hurts

Brad Gibson

Software piracy is not a subject I ever thought I'd write a column on. Like you, I've always read news stories about illegal software copying and said: "It's not that bad." But on a recent trip to China, I saw first-hand how widespread it really is, and I've changed my mind.

Everywhere I went in China I found one very interesting thing: pirated software everywhere, but legal software hardly anywhere. Upon further investigation for a story for *MacFormat This Week*, I found major software developers like Microsoft and Adobe have virtually given up on stopping piracy in China and the Far East. Along with that they have also abandoned trying to sell their products on a large scale.

And that is the most frightening fact. Think about it: for the most part these companies aren't selling their products in China! A computer retailer in China told me he doesn't stock Adobe *Creative Suite 4* for Mac because, "My customers can buy a copy of it down the street for 400 Yuan." That's the equivalent of just £4!

> *"It's hard to buy legitimate software when you can buy it for four quid with a valid serial number"*

I truly believe software piracy is much worse than it was just ten years ago. It's hard to do the right thing and buy a legitimate software product when you know you can buy it for four quid with a valid serial number.

No one in their right mind can believe that the loss of revenue from a country of 1.3 billion people is not affecting a software company's bottom line, especially with the huge development costs of new products. It has to be.

So if you do use pirated Mac software (or other platforms' pirated software), think about the fact that you're really hurting yourself. Software companies need money to survive and make more software for YOU, just like you need to get paid every month to survive.

It's time we all take a deep look inside our Mac's **Applications** folder and realise that pirated software really ends up hurting ourselves in the long run.

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the MacFormat This Week podcast. Download it via iTunes or from www.macformat.co.uk.

>> APPLE PROFITS

Advantage Apple

As Apple rises, Microsoft slides

Apple and Microsoft filed deeply contrasting financial results in April: Apple revealing its strongest March quarter results ever, while Microsoft bleakly admitted falling PC sales had trimmed Windows revenue by 19%. *Office* profits also fell for a second consecutive quarter.

"We are extremely pleased to report the best non-holiday quarter revenue and earnings in our history," said Peter Oppenheimer, Apple's CFO. Microsoft's chief bean counter Chris Liddell wasn't so upbeat: "I didn't see any trends at the end of the quarter that would encourage me to think that we have hit the bottom," he said.

Apple, which holds $29 billion in its cash reserves, saw revenue of $8.16 billion and a net quarterly profit of $1.21 billion. It sold 2.22 million Macs (down 3%), 11.01 million iPods (up 3%) and 3.79 million iPhones – Apple's real growth story – representing 123% unit growth over the same quarter last year. Apple also revealed iPod touch sales doubled year-on-year, reaching 37 million units (including iPhones).

Wall Street warmed to Apple's positive financial news.

Needham & Co. analyst Charles Wolf said: "In an economy that shows only tentative signs of recovery, Apple reported what must be viewed as an outstanding quarter."

Barclays Capital analyst Ben Reitzes called Apple's results "solid", predicting a "major new product event in September." ●

The "funnest iPod ever" is selling in its millions, Apple confirms.

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

Much to the surprise of the bears, global stock markets have had a furious rally. From early March, when the world economy teetered on the brink of a catastrophic collapse, the markets turned back and have shot up.

Consequentially, as the rally has pushed the Nasdaq up 25%, Apple's stock has shot up from its sub-$100 trading range to $125. This is a typically star-like Apple performance – rising nearly 50%, almost twice the index – that once again underlines its status as a stock that stands at the apex of desirability.

Apple is a single company stock bubble, a one 'Inc wonder.' This could be seen as a criticism but it's not, as this status is not accidental. It comes from a semi-miraculous ability to turn out products that are several generations better than the competition.

It's also a reflection of the problems at Microsoft. It is hard to underestimate the benefit to Apple of the disaster that is Vista. Even now Vista feels only semi-functional. It's the best advert for Apple I've ever seen. But there's a cloud on the horizon for Apple: Windows 7. The early word is that it rocks.

So 2009 looks like being the year of the big rally, so Apple's stock price should prosper. But if Windows 7 is excellent, the current sharp rise could be slowed.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVEN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> iPHONE NEWS

O2 loses iPhone exclusive deal?

Is the iPhone headed for other mobile networks?

ABI Research claims the iPhone has achieved 1.5% of global mobile phone market share; this seems set to grow as Apple may end its exclusive network partner deals in some territories.

USA Today claims AT&T competitor, Verizon, has begun talks with Apple to offer the device to its customers starting next year. Eager to retain its competitive advantage, current US operator AT&T is pushing to retain its exclusive rights to the iPhone until 2011. Apple has only said it's "very happy" with its existing carrier.

O2 may also lose its exclusive control over UK iPhone sales. Vodafone has introduced a free dedicated iPhone app which lets users access its aggregated news and information service. While O2 continues to claim it retains control over UK iPhones, the Vodafone move suggests the depth of that carrier's interest in the iPhone, which it distributes in some countries. Play.com in March began selling sim-free iPhones, though not all the device's features, like Visual Voicemail, are fully supported on alternate networks.

A move to offer the device through multiple UK carriers makes sense. An April report in the *Telegraph* suggested retail partner Carphone Warehouse has been struggling to sell available stock of the device, with consumers reluctant to agree to a lengthy 18- or 24-month contract, particularly as expectation continues to suggest Apple plans introduction of new iPhone models this summer. ●

Calendars
All Calendars
Monday
Add Account...
Microsoft Exchange
mobileme
Gmail
YAHOO! MAIL
AOL
Other

Carriers like Verizon and Vodafone have shown interest in the iPhone.

>> EVENTS / What's going on?

27 MAY

D: ALL THINGS DIGITAL, San Diego
26-28 May
The Wall Street Journal's annual event features many of the tech industry's greatest names.

COMPUTEX TAIPEI, Taiwan
2-6 June
The Computex event in Taipei always delivers glimpses into future technological developments.

MAC OS X TRAINING CAMP, France
17-24 June
Leading Apple trainer Agnosys offers in-depth training in key Apple technologies to developers.

GAMES CONVENTION ONLINE, Leipzig
31 July - 2 August
Focused on online gaming. Will iPhone's ascendancy see developers reveal new socially-connected titles?

JAVAONE, San Francisco
2-5 June
A show for pros involved in developing new solutions online covers MySQL, cloud computing and more.

WWDC 2008, San Francisco
9-12 June
Apple's event for developers has already sold out. Will Steve Jobs appear on stage for an announcement?

MacFormat issue 210
24 June
The July issue of MacFormat hits the newsstands today, packed with new reviews, practical tutorials and technical help.

MACWORLD CONFERENCE AND EXPO, San Francisco
9-13 February 2009
Apple has abandoned this event, will the rest of the industry follow?

Virtual Private Servers

Way more Powerful
then shared,
but a fraction of
the cost of dedicated.

Easy managed
Choice of distro
Custom setup
Fraction the cost
Powered by Virtuozzo
Dell server

We could go on...

sales@blacknight.com
www.blacknight.com
0844 4849361

BLACKNIGHT SOLUTIONS

powered by Parallels

PRIZE WORTH £900!

Win! A MacBook and a copy of Toast 10!

Grab yourself a new Apple laptop and Roxio's disc creation suite

There are some applications that enthusiastic Mac owners simply must have. Roxio's veteran, comprehensive disc burning suite, *Toast*, is one such program.

Toast boasts a crystal-clear interface, making it easy to burn discs. Just drag, drop and go. You can span a large bundle of files over several discs, splitting files where necessary or keeping them intact to copy to another disc. You can create great DVDs, too, with titles, menus, chapters and so on, and you can even burn high-definition video to standard DVDs or Blu-ray discs using a free plug-in which usually sells for £14.99.

Toast 10, the latest version of the suite, offers a host of new features. You can save web video from your favourite websites to burn to disc or transfer to iPod, extract clips from any DVD video and convert them to the format of your choice, and convert audiobook CDs for playback on your iPod, complete with chapters and pause-resume support.

To read more on *Toast* and Roxio's other products, go to **www.roxio.co.uk**.

The question

One reader will win a MacBook and *Toast 10*, and one runner-up will receive a copy of *Toast 10*. To enter, answer this question correctly:

What is the latest version of Roxio *Toast*?

A) Toast 7
B) Toast 9
C) Toast 10

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text TOAST, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
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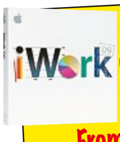

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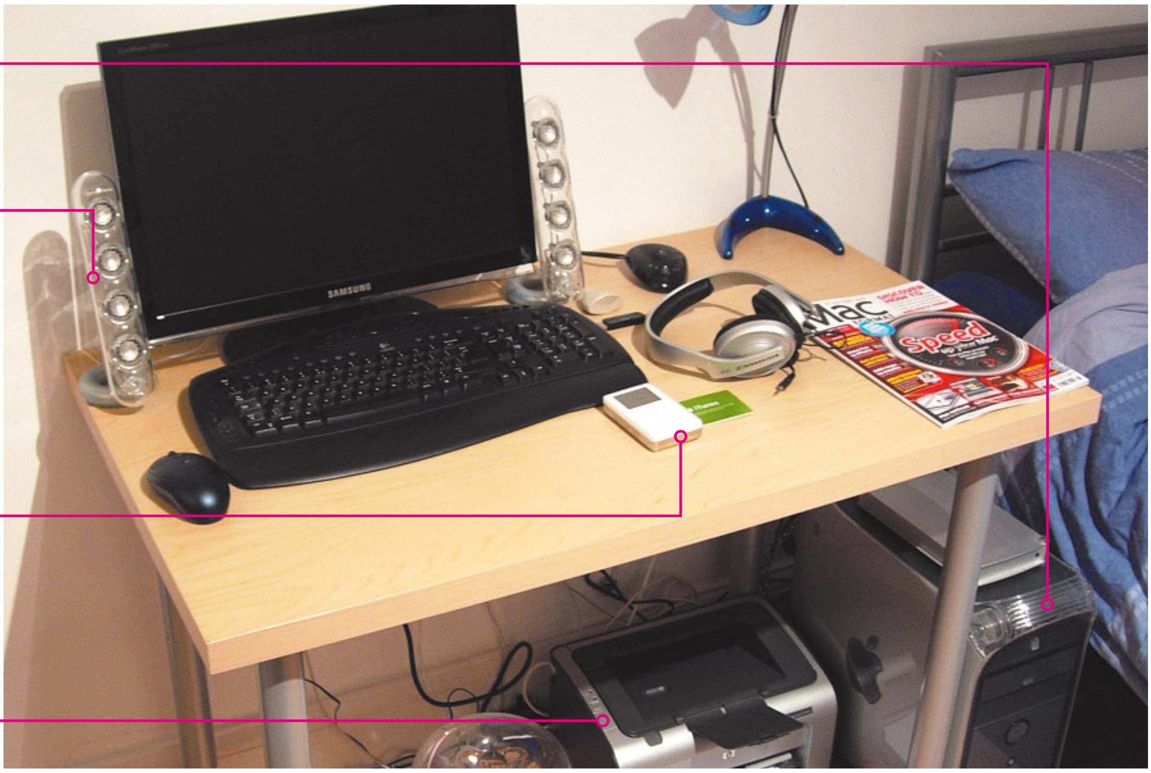
Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their Mac setup – and next month, it could be you!



Apple Power Mac G4 400MHz
Laurence has upgraded the processor to 1.4GHz, the RAM to a full gigabyte, and the graphics card to an NVIDIA GeForce FX5200.

Harman Kardon SoundSticks
These iconic speakers don't just look the part; they sound great too, and the design has proved remarkably resilient to trends.

Apple iPod 2G 10GB
Who can possibly cope with a piddling 10GB? A huge number of folks, actually, and this quintessential second generation iPod suits Laurence fine.

HP LaserJet P1009
Sure, everyone's interested in full-colour inkjet printers, but you still can't beat mono laser printers for economy. Text is usually crisper too, especially on plain paper.

»PROFILE

Name: Laurence Cable
Occupation: Journalism student
Been using a Mac for: 15 years
Favourite hardware: Unibody 13-inch MacBook
Favourite software: Apple Safari 4

Some of the kit in this picture may have been consigned to the history books, but this is an up-to-date Mac running Leopard. Rather than replace it, journalism student Laurence Cable has upgraded it over time, and finds that it still does everything he needs.

"My G4 tower is twice the age of my iBook – but thanks to a slew of upgrades, it runs Leopard better.

"When it started getting sluggish a few years ago, I decided that it would be cheaper to upgrade it than to replace it completely. There are so many websites out there with tips on how to upgrade Macs that it wasn't daunting at all.

"Over time I put a new processor, video card, hard drive and RAM in it, and it was like having a new Mac for half the price! Every time a new version of OS X comes out, it seems to run quicker than ever."

> *"I've found Macs to be streets ahead – they really do 'just work' as the slogan used to say…"*

Laurence has long been a Mac user; ever since he got his very first Macintosh LC 475 back in the 90s, he has been hooked.

"I've always found Macs to be streets ahead of their Windows counterparts. Everything is so well thought-out, it really does 'just work', as the slogan used to say. You can use a Mac without really reading the instructions and it will still behave just as you expect.

"As a journalism student, it's important to have a machine that lets me edit images, audio and video, and quickly upload to the web. The great thing about programs like *iMovie* is that you can create professional-looking videos, regardless of your level of knowledge.

"A fast web browser like *Safari 4* is also essential, to access RSS news feeds, social media sites, and run my blog at http://la.urence.eu.

"For word processing, I combine the classic with the modern – *AppleWorks* and Google Docs. Being able to access my work from anywhere is great, as there's no need to carry things around on flash drives. *AppleWorks*' strength is its sheer simplicity – it does what it says, without all the fancy bells and whistles. I'm going to stick my head out here and say that it's one of my all-time favourite Apple programs!" ●

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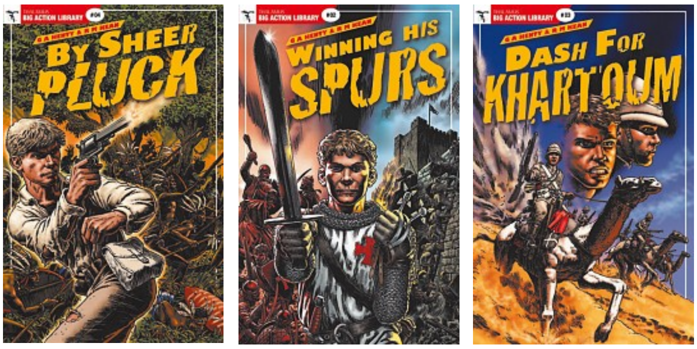
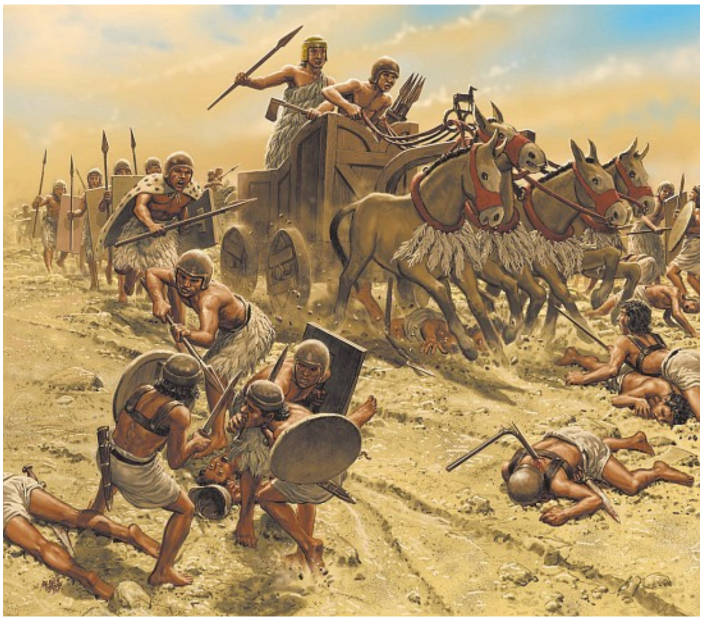
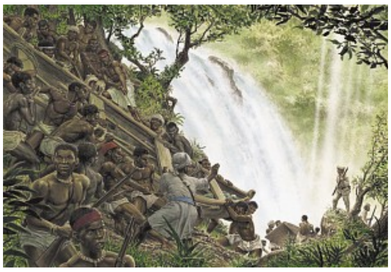




ABOVE: Oli's latest project: covers for a series of boys' adventure novels.

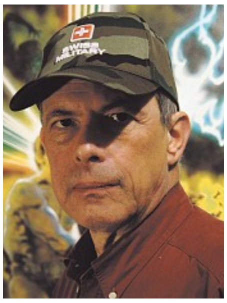
FAR RIGHT: A battle at ancient Sumeria from Living in Ancient Mesopotamia, published by Chelsea House.

RIGHT: Explorer Stanley on the Congo, one of the first paintings Oli completed on his Mac.



I use my Mac for editorial art

Ian Osborne talks to internationally renowned artist and illustrator, Oli Frey



>>PROFILE

Name: Oliver Frey
Location: Ludlow, Shropshire
Occupation: Graphic artist and illustrator
System: iMac
Web: www.thalamus-books.com

MacFormat: Tell us about your career as an illustrator.
Oliver Frey: I started in 1969, drawing war comics while studying at film school. In 1973, I took on an agent and went full time, working on children's titles. In 1983 I co-founded Newsfield Publications, where I produced illustrations for videogames magazines such as *Crash*.

By 1995 I'd moved to books, and while still contributing art, I was also involved in editorial roles. Since 2000, I've been a partner in Thalamus Publishing, the international co-edition publisher of illustrated family reference books. I contribute illustrations such as reconstructions, views of daily life and portraits. Our latest completed project is a set about living in ancient times, which features more than 300 of my paintings.

MF: How does your Mac help?
OF: I work on an iMac running OS X 10.5.6 and *Photoshop CS2*. I scan my hand-produced art using a cheap Epson Perfection 3590 Photo scanner. If the illustration is coloured line art, I hand-draw the inked line and then colour it up in *Photoshop*. If it's a full painting, I paint a halftone base illustration and finish it in *Photoshop* to look as if the whole thing was created conventionally.

MF: What are the advantages of using Macs in this way?
OF: I don't get messy fingers from using an airbrush and it never clogs. Mistakes are easy to correct on the Mac, and the array of effects helps the rendering of my 'vision'. The down side is the loss of the spontaneous, quirky nature of real brushwork.

MF: Are there any projects you are working on at the moment that you can tell us about?
OF: I'm currently producing covers for a series of novels we're planning. We've opted for a comic-book feel, so I've produced a double-sized line illustration, scanned it in and reduced it by 50% to its final size, which I will then colour up in *Photoshop*.

MF: Any advice for budding artists who want to use their Macs for similar tasks?
OF: Macs are a stunning tool for an illustrator, but a computer cannot make up for a lack of drawing ability or inexperience in painting by hand. You still have to visualise what you want your trusty Mac to do because it cannot produce art for you all on its own! ●

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Gadgets

The hottest kit, coming soon.
Here's what Apple is up against

Sony Walkman W202

£59 http://tinyurl.com/d8vcp4

What is it? Depending on which way you look at it, it's either an MP3 player built into earphones, or a pair of earphones built into an MP3 player.

When's it due? It's out now.

Why are we excited? Just like Apple's new iPod shuffle, the Sony Walkman W202 puts the fun back into the screenless MP3 player. It's very cool and is easy to store – when not in use, its two parts fit together using a magnet. Plus, there are no clumsy cables to tangle up.

TDK Trans-It Edge

£11-£63
http://tinyurl.com/c2lbfx

What is it? A sleek and stylish USB flash drive, available in capacities from 4GB to 32GB. And just look at that brushed metal finish.

When's it due? It will be with you in a flash.

Why are we excited? It's great to see an otherwise mundane product executed with style and panache, without costing the earth. And it will look great sticking out of a Mac Pro or MacBook.

TDK
Life on Record

Sprint
3:01
8

Palm Pre

£TBA http://tinyurl.com/7c5gs4

What is it? A serious rival for the iPhone.

When's it due? Some time this summer.

Why are we excited? Palm has never repeated the success of its PDA range on today's smartphones, but the Pre could prove a return to form for the California-based company. It boasts a brand-new operating system (Palm webOS), a full QWERTY keyboard and comprehensive internet capabilities, as well as GPS and a decent camera. We'll review this when it's ready, and see just how well it compares to Apple's iPhone…

Dell Adamo

From £1,649

www.AdamoByDell.co.uk

What is it? According to Dell, it's 'the world's thinnest laptop'. No prizes for guessing where the inspiration came from then.

When's it due? Already shipped.

Why are we excited? Can Dell play Apple at its own game and release a high-end, beautifully designed laptop that's a status symbol as well as a computer? Frankly we doubt it, but it will be interesting to see if the Adamo wins hearts and minds as successfully as the MacBook Air.

High Definition Driver 300 Ω

Sennheiser HD 800

£1,000 **http://tinyurl.com/a8pzns**

What is it? Extremely expensive headphones.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? Who wouldn't be? Let's be realistic. No one on the *MacFormat* team is about to part with a four-figure sum for a pair, regardless of how good they are. But wouldn't you love to clasp them to your ears just to hear what a grand's-worth of headphones sounds like?

Leica M8 White Edition

£5,990 **http://tinyurl.com/36nunm**

What is it? A gorgeous special-edition camera that brings the benefits of Leica's analogue M system to the digital field.

When's it due? Grab one now.

Why are we excited? The Leica M8 White Edition is a pro-quality camera that gives digital photographers a similar degree of control as a high-end film camera. Finished in white nappa cowhide and white lacquer with chrome controls, the White Edition has all the technical specifications of the renowned Leica M8.2. It's supplied with a range of accessories, too. ●

M8
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Feedback

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

>> TWEETS THIS MONTH

SquareGroup@MacFormat
Very snazzy, like the new look.

GrfxGuru@MacFormat
Enjoying the podcast very much, thanks for taking the time to do it! Nothing I'd change that I can think of

minibtweet@MacFormat
Really enjoyed new mag style the gem for me is the keyboard shortcut keys! A tiny change but very useful and great idea :)

Follow what we're up to each month at Twitter.com/MacFormat

The new-look MacFormat

I've just had a flick through the new-look *MacFormat*, and here are my first impressions:

1. There's a clear layout, nice headings, good use of colour and it's well organised.

2. I do not like the new Soho font – would prefer to have Myriad Pro still, as it is far easier to read and nicer altogether. Maybe I'll get used to the new font but at first glance my first reaction was "no, that's horrible". I don't like the font in the "balloons" either such as on pages 42 and 43 or in What You'll Need on page 62.

3. Headings for articles are more eye-catching and look good. For somebody glancing through the magazine on a newsagent's shelf, it would certainly catch their eye.

4. Really glad you've done away with text over a graphics background – thank you!

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Issue 208 of MacFormat introduced the current look. What do you think?

That's it from a brief flick-through until I sit down and read it. Overall impression is favourable though – well done!

Carrie Harford

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the comments, Carrie. We've got a feeling the new font might take a while for our readers to become familiar with. Myriad Pro is Apple's corporate font, and one of our reasons for moving away from it was to emphasise *MacFormat*'s identity as being distinctly separate to Apple's.

>> STAR LETTER / FireWire – the demise?

As a professional television editor I have a concern about the removal of FireWire from the latest range of low-end Macs. If Apple are neglecting FireWire in favour of USB, what would encourage other manufacturers to keep it on their devices? As such, any peripherals with FireWire will become scarce and therefore trade at a premium price. And what about all the devices such as audio interfaces and DV converters that use FireWire – they suddenly have a more limited appeal. Has Apple set out to deliberately annoy?

Neill Jongman

MacFormat replies: Apple still has FireWire on its professionally orientated Macs, such as the MacBook Pro and even the (entry level) Mac mini gained a FireWire 800 port in the last upgrade. Almost all new DV camcorders will work over USB now, making a FireWire port a luxury, but that offers no comfort to those who own FireWire devices.

STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com**

If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

elgato
EyeTV Hybrid

From the typeface

While I applaud the attempt to redesign the *MacFormat* magazine to keep it fresh and modern, the current design does lack a polished feel in places with the choice and applied usage of typefaces. The condensed typeface you use in a few places, especially when reversed out of block colours may be hard for some of your readers to read. This may be more of a problem when your printer misregisters their printing, which has happened in the last couple of issues I've received. Fortunately, my copy of the latest issue doesn't seem to have any printing problems.

The new chunky typeface for most headers works great in places, especially reversed out, but in places it looks like you are shouting and create a bit too much black space, hindering

Apple's new 24-inch LED Cinema Display is a stunning monitor, but only useful if it's compatible with your Mac.

the process of drawing the eye of the reader into the article. The header for the *GarageBand* article is an example.

Overall, it's a good refresh and I'm looking forward to further issues as I get used to the new type hierarchy.

Martin Rait

MacFormat replies: Thanks for your email, Martin, it's always good to get such well-written, constructive and useful feedback. It's great to see how engaged our readers feel with the magazine, and that they take such a keen interest in the changes we've made. The overall comments have been almost universally positive, but your email brought to light two of the most frequent criticisms. We agree with you about the condensed weight of the font in places like our Quick Tip boxes. From the next issue you should start to see some changes happening in these areas.

>> CONTACT US

Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

LED down the wrong path

I just got your new issue and I think it's fantastic. However, I've just got to Luis' pages and think that he has missed the point on one of the questions put to him. Mike Clarke was asking about LED displays in MacBooks. Luis fires back with: "I imagine you mean LCD – rather than LED – a display built of LEDs would be seriously low-res".

However, a guy of Luis' intelligence should have realised that Mike was asking whether LED backlit displays were any good/better than their CFL counterparts (although Mike did say TFT). I am an iMac devotee and I never thought about Macs until the aluminium-glass versions of the iMac came out. I have to say I will not be going Window-wards again at home!

Further to Mike's question – LED displays are brighter and have more colour definition. The blacks are darker and the whites crisper and if you have it on a notebook it uses less battery power. The image won't be any crisper than the highest resolution the screen will handle, but overall it will stand out from 20-inch iMacs.

Keep up the excellent work and I look forward to picking up my next copy of *MacFormat*.

Adam Drew

MacFormat replies: You're correct, Adam, and we have it on good authority that Luis is kicking himself for missing this. However, before splashing out on Apple's new 24-inch LED Cinema Display, there are compatibility issues you should be aware of, and Luis addresses these in this month's Q&A, starting on page 72. ●

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How much are you worth?

Personal Accountz is a neat little application that runs on your Mac and lets you see your current and future financial situation. It now comes with a new series of graphs and charts so you can see at a glance where your spending goes. The new budgeting feature will help you plan on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis to help you stay on track.

And with the option to import statements from many financial institutions, you can now get the picture with considerably less effort.

But if you really want to get into detail, *Personal Accountz* lets you structure your accounts in any way you like. For example, you can see the overall value of your house, then zoom in further to see the value of its contents, then zoom right in to see each individual item. Perfect for insurance valuations and claims.

However, the real beauty of *Personal Accountz* is in its forecasting. It looks at your standing orders, direct debits and anything else you want to automate, then forecasts what your bank (and any other accounts) will look like in the future. It even tells you on what date and by how much an account will go overdrawn. Great if you are juggling money around.

Personal Accountz has featured in *The Independent, The Sunday Telegraph, The Daily Express, MacWorld, Computer Shopper* and many others. But it is our customers who really count. Here's what they say:

'I have been using Personal Accountz since January 2007 and have found it to be a worth while investment. It is easy to use and does exactly what it says on the box.' Mick Edwards

'The program is really brilliant – very easy to use, yet comprehensive.' Gordon Tatler

'At last, fantastic. Thanks for the best accounts package ever.' Charlie Bird (Devon Adventure Training, Plymouth).

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MacFormat investigates

Can I get a fast web connection outside a city?

What do you do if you have an iffy ADSL connection, or even no broadband at all? **Rob Mead** looks at other net-toting choices

From Facebook to Twitter, iPlayer to *iTunes*, you're nothing if you're not on the internet these days – which is great if you live within easy reach of your local BT exchange, less so if you're stuck in the sticks and have to contend with horrible contention ratios and flaky connectivity.

Social networking and downloading music and movies is just the tip of the iceberg: almost every app you use on your Mac has some kind of internet requirement – whether you're syncing multiple computers using MobileMe or downloading updates to Mac OS X.

Given that these bandwidth requirements are seemingly endless, it's becoming apparent that we need better broadband, and we need it mighty quick.

> *"It's becoming very apparent that we need much better broadband, and we need it mighty quick"*

Better, faster

The government has already stepped in. Last January, Lord Carter's interim Digital Britain report set out a minimum broadband speed requirement of 2Mbps for everyone in the UK by 2012. Technologies like Fibre To The Home (FTTH) or Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) will go a long way to address this, of course. But they're also going to take a long time to install nationwide, and be very costly – current estimates range from £5-£15 billion. Fibre is also problematic in that it fails to address the real needs many of us have right here, right now. There has got to be a better way…

As a freelance writer and small-business owner, I have a vested interest in seeking a fast, robust and reliable broadband connection – my livelihood depends on it. Theoretically, I already have a 3.5Mbps ADSL connection (the UK average, according to Ofcom), but the reality is often far wide of that. At 10am on a Tuesday, if it's a sunny term-time, I can occasionally get the speeds I pay £29.99 a month for. For the most part my broadband limps along at 50Kbps or much less, frequently dipping to as low down at 7Kbps – and that's when I get an ADSL connection at all. In between, I battle on with frequent modem reboots, frustrating calls to my ISP's overseas call centre, and regular jaunts to a WiFi café. Much of the time even downloading tiny app updates on my iPhone is an exercise in stress. It's got to the point now where my biggest ambition is to watch an entire programme on BBC iPlayer uninterrupted.

According to BeyonDSL there are 13,000 'not spots' in the UK in a mix of high- and low-population areas that can't get broadband at all, and there are many others that only get marginal ADSL coverage. So what are the alternatives? ►

MF investigator Rob dishes out the latest on getting a decent broadband connection.

Photography by Dave Caudrey

Broadband over satellite

We're all used to the idea of receiving TV over satellite, so why not broadband too? To be honest, the first versions weren't great – when it launched in 1997, broadband over satellite was expensive, didn't play nicely with Macs and still required a BT line to transmit or request data. However, that all changed late last year with the arrival of Astra2Connect – a Mac-friendly broadband-over-satellite service provided by BeyonDSL. It offers 256Kbps to 2Mbps connection speed with prices ranging from £24.99 to £84.99 per month (less if you pay annually). As well as offering relatively lower costs, broadband over satellite is now better in other ways with the 79cm satellite dish now able to send as well as receive data – potentially saving you the cost of paying monthly telephone line rental.

> *"As well as offering relatively lower costs, broadband over satellite is now better in other ways"*

Astra2Connect's broadband-over-satellite kit comprises a satellite dish, Newtec satellite modem and the option of DIY or professional installation, the last of which adds a £100 cost to the £299 hardware outlay. The Astra2Connect package even includes its own Point and Play alignment device so you can aim the dish at the right satellite, although it took the engineer who did my install over three hours to get the whole thing up and running.

While those paid-for connection speeds seem pretty low (256Kbps? Meh!), BeyonDSL points out that these are minimum, not maximum connection speeds. The service should work no matter where you live or whatever the weather – something that compares favourably to ADSL in both cases.

In practice, Astra2Connect's service holds up very well. I've been using it for a few months now and it has consistently enabled me to surf the web, send/receive emails, watch movies, enjoy music and carry out app updates with barely a flicker. On the downside, the 1Mbps service I (and most of BeyonDSL's customers) have doesn't feel particularly quick. That's partly due to the service's relatively high latency (0.6 to 1.8 seconds on average) – you have to wait a little while for a response to your mouse clicks, something that also makes Astra2Connect spectacularly useless at online gaming.

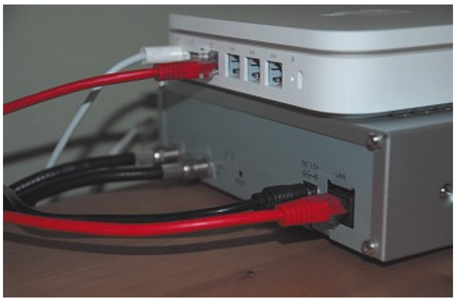
Astra2Connect is also currently unable to take advantage of location-specific services like BBC iPlayer, chiefly because incoming requests are deemed to be coming from outside the UK, although that should change later this year.

Verdict: ***Astra2Connect's satellite service might be the slow-but-sure tortoise of the broadband world, but it beats the huffy ADSL hare, with all its exaggerated claims and underwhelming delivery. The best news is that broadband over satellite is almost infinitely scalable – so it should get faster and cheaper as it becomes more popular.***

HOW TO / Set up satellite broadband

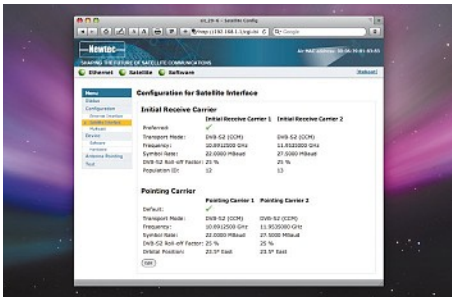
01 Install the dish

Mount the dish and point it in the right direction - the kit comes with a calibration tool to help find the right satellite. Run two lengths of cable from the dish's LNB (low-noise block) to the supplied Newtec modem. One cable will transmit data; the second will receive it.



02 Connect satellite modem

Attach the transmitter and receiver cables from the dish to the connectors on the back. Then plug in the included Ethernet cable into the port on the modem and then into your wireless router or into your Mac. Astra2Connect is fully compatible with AirPort Extreme.



03 Change modem settings

Type the modem's address into a browser. You may have to tweak the Antenna Pointing setting to get a stable connection. Then run a Test Procedure to check whether the modem's operating correctly – a traffic light system will highlight problem areas.

WHY THE FUTURE IS FIRMLY ABOUT FIBRE

In March, BT announced that it would upgrade 29 exchanges so they could deliver Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) connections – offering broadband speeds of between 40Mbps and 60Mbps. FTTC works by running fibre optic cables from the exchange to the telephone cabinets in your street, with the final connection between the cabinet and homes running along copper cables.

FTTC is the most practical and affordable way to deliver super-fast broadband connections in Britain, but BT is also taking the next step that is delivering Fibre To The Home (FTTH) or Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) connections (piping fibre optic cables from the local exchange and directly into people's houses). BT Openreach is already serving up 100Mbps broadband speeds to the residents of one housing development in Ebbsfleet, Kent, enabling users to enjoy next-gen broadband services such as watching or downloading high-definition video content.

Fibre optic technology isn't just limited to BT, of course. In February, Virgin Media upgraded customers on its 2Mbps service, offering them 10Mbps broadband packages for just £14 per month; with 50Mbps download packages priced at £35.99 per month. The catch being just like BT's super-fast broadband services you need to live in the right area: Virgin Media's broadband network currently extends to 12.6 million homes – around 50% of the UK total.

BT is rolling out Fibre To The Home (FTTH) to 29 telephone exchanges.

Broadband over mobile

Beware the pitfalls of mobile broadband, a loan may be required to foot the bill...

Now this seems like a good option: the UK is served with near-ubiquitous access to the internet, thanks to the endeavours of the six main mobile providers – and the high street is littered with low-cost mobile broadband offers: you can pick up many 3G USB modems for free, with subscription charges on 12- to 24-month contracts ranging from £10-£35 per month.

Unfortunately, my experience hasn't been quite so euphoric: I took out my 3G mobile data package a little over two years ago when the idea was still in its infancy. I paid £99 for my Huawei E220 HSDPA USB modem, which gives me 250MB of inclusive mobile broadband access for £28.75 per month, with charges of £1 per MB for anything over that. That made my eyes water then. The teardrops soon turned into floods.

Firing up mobile broadband first requires that you plug the modem into a spare USB port, initialise the modem using the *Vodafone Connect* software and then connect to the modem using System Preferences > Network > Huawei E220. Unfortunately, there's no way to tell how much of your monthly allowance you're using while you're connected (Vodafone's software only tells you after you've disconnected and started it up once again) and real-world connection speeds were disappointing: I was often greeted with either no connection at all or low 2G and 3G speeds – not quite the 2Mbps connection I was expecting. In fairness, the modem worked well in high-population areas like London, but then with lots of open WiFi networks around I hardly needed to fetch the modem out of my bag. At home, it was evident that mobile broadband was still subject to the same slowdowns as regular ADSL – a problem exacerbated by the fact that a) I was using the mobile broadband indoors; and b) mobile data coverage is also iffy where I live. When it did work, the results were nerve-wracking – soar past your monthly allowance as I did on one occasion and you can expect a rather hefty bill. The upshot of all this is that mobile broadband turned from being a useful day-to-day tool into something I dare use only occasionally. Your mileage may vary.

> *"I was greeted with either no connection at all or low 2G and 3G speeds, not the 2Mbps I expected"*

***Verdict:* After two years on a locked-in contract I've spent more than £1K on something I've barely used. Needless to say, I haven't renewed my contract.** ●

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OS X secrets revealed

Sometimes, it's worth doing a little digging to find the gold underneath, as **Rob Buckley** explains

You may find it hard to believe but OS X is now eight years old and is currently on version 10.5 Leopard. There have been six different OS Xs before that, including Tiger (10.4), Panther (10.3), Puma (10.2) and Cheetah (10.1), and before that, of course, there were nine previous versions of the Mac OS. So, as you can imagine, over the years, Apple has added hundreds and hundreds of useful features to its operating system, all designed to make our lives easier. The trouble is, you can't just give everyone a big list of features on their screens and then say, "Go on. Use them." That would be impractical. Instead, Apple has made simplicity and ease-of-use its hallmark but this has meant hiding some things away. The result? There may be a whole loads of things your Mac could be helping you with that you didn't know about.

Over the next few pages, we'll look at the best - hidden and otherwise - features of OS X 10.5 Leopard, and how to use them. Since most of your Mac life is probably lived in *Finder* and the Dock, we'll run you through top tricks to make you more productive there. We'll then take you through some of the applications that Apple has given us but we don't often have the time to explore, despite their hidden talents. Finally, we'll look at some of the more advanced features of OS X that can speed things up and enhance your Mac. »

» ON THE DISC
Look on the disc for software mentioned here

Illustration by MagicTorch

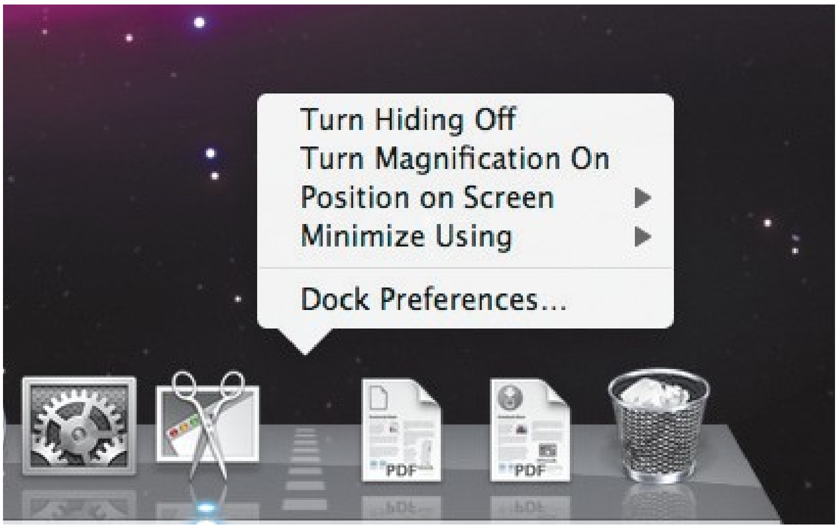
Get more from OS X

Let's take a closer look at what OS X can do to get you organised

No matter what applications you run, the Dock, your Desktop and *Finder* unite every Mac user. They're what we all use every day. You might not realise it, but there are two very powerful, hidden tools that can help you out on the Desktop.

Firstly, there's *Exposé* (usually activated through the keyboard shortcuts configured in System Preferences > Exposé & Spaces, but also via the Applications folder) enables you to page through the windows of all your open applications or just your current application, but it also moves all the windows out the way so you can get to the Desktop easily.

The next tool, *Spaces*, allows you to expand your Desktop into new areas. Activate *Spaces* from the Dock (or by pressing F8) and you can switch between these areas, dragging files and folders to these separate spaces to keep them organised for particular activities. One useful hidden feature is that once you've activated *Spaces*, you can simply drag a file or folder to an edge of the screen and wait – if there's a space next to the current one on that side of the screen, OS X will switch to the new one.



Hold down the ctrl key and click the Dock divider shown here to get access to a menu like this.

Finders keepers

Finder also has some hidden features: View options (View > Show View Options), for example, will let you change the icon size of files in any folder, including the Desktop, change the spacing between them, and get them to snap to a grid arranged by date, name or type of file, so that they are all in some sort of order.

You can also sort by label, since you can give any file a coloured label by right-clicking on it and choosing a label from the contextual menu that appears. The contextual menu also gives you a few other useful functions: the ability to compress files and folders into zip archives; the ability to duplicate anything; and the ability to create 'aliases' of files and folders, which act as proxies for operations like double-clicking and opening. These aliases are useful because you can drag them around and store them in more convenient or useful locations. You can also right-click and select Show Original to reveal which file an alias is pointing to.

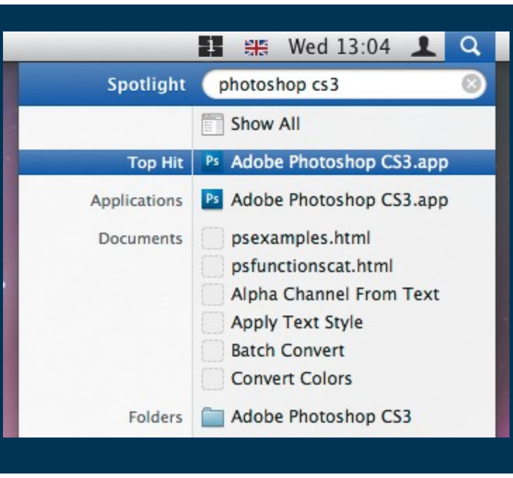
Back in *Finder*, don't forget that you can add files, folders and other objects to the sidebar for quick access - just drag and drop them. What appears in the main *Finder* window is also customisable. There is a handy Path Bar available along the bottom of the window (View > Show Path Bar) to show you where a file is in your hard drive. You can also hide both the toolbar and the sidebar by clicking in the lozenge in the top right-hand corner. The toolbar is even more customisable than the sidebar -

» QUICK TIP

If you hold down the ⌥ key in Finder when you select the **File** menu, you'll get alternative versions of commands: an **Inspector** palette to replace the **Get Info** window; **Always open with** instead of **open with**; and a slideshow instead of **Quick Look**. Try it now!

» HOW TO / Find things with Spotlight

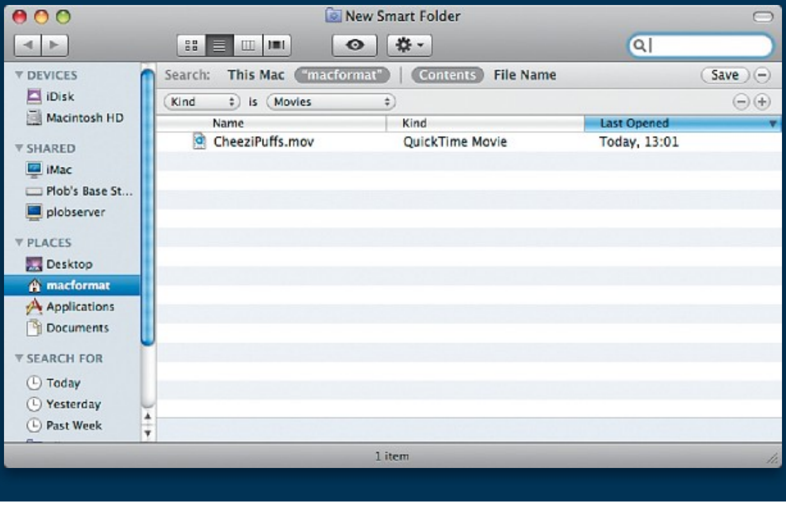
The best way to find files on your Mac is to use Spotlight. if you look in the top-right hand corner of the screen you'll see a magnifying glass. Clicking on it will reveal the Spotlight search box, into which you can type the text you're looking for (this can either be part of a filename or part of the actual file itself) and, in just a few seconds, your Mac will find everything that matches your search. Obviously, the more specific you make the search, the shorter the list will be. You can then click on a result to open it, alternatively hold down the ⌥ key while you're doing it, and it will be revealed in Finder instead. If the list is very long, the **Show All** entry at the top will let you see a complete list of results if they won't all fit in. If you want to avoid searching through a long list then you can also customise what is revealed in the searches. Do this using the **Spotlight** pane in System Preferences. Here you can specify file types that you don't want to appear in your searches, as well as the order you want files to be listed in.



Spotlight doesn't just search filenames - it also searches content and metadata for matches.

» HOW TO / Use special Finder folders

As well as having standard folders for sorting files, Finder has two different special kinds of folders: **Burn Folders** and **Smart Folders**, both of which are accessible from the **File** menu. **Burn Folders** allow you to create a CD or DVD, simply by dragging files into the **Burn Folder** and then clicking **Burn** when the CD is ready to make. **Smart Folders** let you create folders whose contents are based on rules. So if you want a folder of all your movies, for instance, whether they're in your **Movies** folder or anywhere else on your hard drive, all you need to do is create a **Smart Folder**, click on the **+** sign to create a new rule, and then pick **Kind is Movies** from the list of rules available (there are many others to choose from), before clicking **Save**. You can save the folder anywhere you want and you can also let it appear in your Finder windows sidebar using the **Add to sidebar** checkbox.



Kind is Movies

Name	Kind	Last Opened
CheeziPuffs.mov	QuickTime Movie	Today, 13:01

To keep you organised, Smart folders will let you create folders full of files picked according to the rules that you set.

right-click on it and select Customise Toolbar from the menu that appears and you can set it to display text as well as icons, or just text; or you can add new icons to the toolbar from the options available.

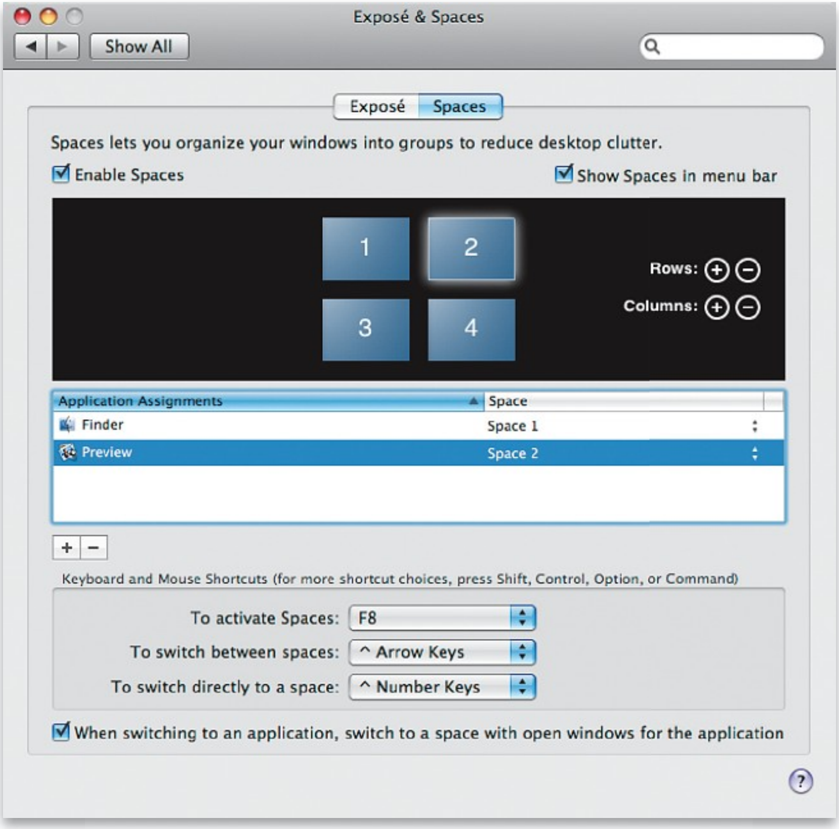
You'll have noticed by now that the key to many of your Mac's hidden features is the contextual menu, which you get by holding down the ctrl key when you click your mouse button, or by right-clicking. The contextual menu is so-called because it gives you access to functions depending on when and where you click. So, if you click on the toolbar, you'll get options to customise it; if you click on a file, you'll get options such as Move to trash, Compress and Open. To keep it short and sweet, there's also a More option, since programs you install can add extra contextual menu items to the list. For instance, *StuffIt* (from $50 (£34), my.smithmicro.com) will install a menu item that enables you to explore zip archives without opening them, *ClamXav* (£FREE, www.clamxav.com) will let you scan an individual file, Roxio *Toast* (£80, www.roxio.co.uk) will let you burn a disc, and so on.

> *"Finder will let you change the icon size of files in any folder, change the spacing between them, snapping them to grid"*

The Dock's hidden features

Finally, there's the Dock's hidden features, accessible from the menu. To suit the way you work, you can change what side of the screen it appears on. You can also hide it when it's not in use, as well as turning the magnification on and off. If you add things to the Dock and open their contextual menus, you'll also get a wealth of options – although they're the same ones you'll get if you just click and hold down the mouse button.

Dragging folders like the Applications folder or the Downloads folder to the Dock for easy access is an obvious necessity, particularly if you then use the contextual menus to change what happens if you click on them: setting a folder full of items to display as a List will work for you much better than setting it to a fan or a grid, which will spread their contents over your Desktop, but quickly runs out of space. You can also change how a folder displays in the Dock: a folder set to display as a stack will show the first item in it on top. »



Spaces lets you organize your windows into groups to reduce desktop clutter.

☑ Enable Spaces
☑ Show Spaces in menu bar

Application Assignments	Space
Finder	Space 1
Preview	Space 2

Keyboard and Mouse Shortcuts (for more shortcut choices, press Shift, Control, Option, or Command)

To activate Spaces: F8
To switch between spaces: ^ Arrow Keys
To switch directly to a space: ^ Number Keys

☑ When switching to an application, switch to a space with open windows for the application

Spaces lets you group windows into areas to reduce clutter - you can even set app windows to appear in a particular space.

» QUICK TIP

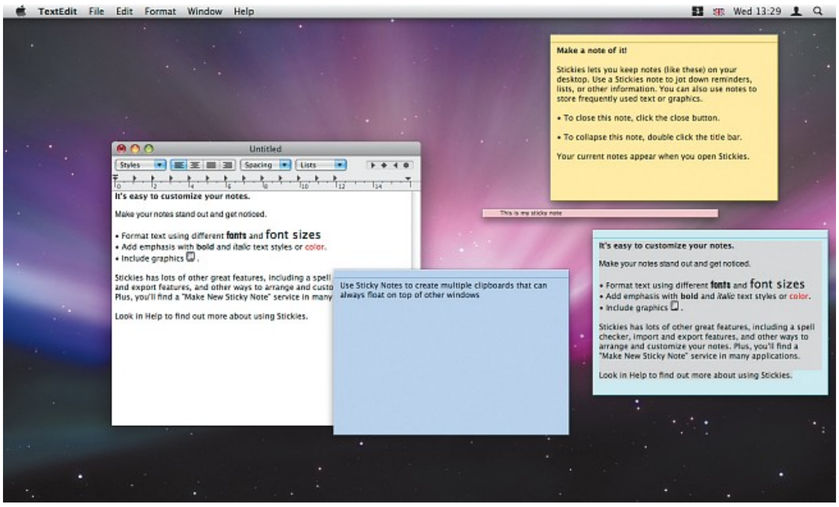
The icon next to the filename in an open window, can be used as a 'proxy' for a open file or folder. Click on it, hold down the mouse and drag the icon to another location.

The best hidden apps

There are some great apps tucked away in your Applications folder

Apple provides dozens of programs with every Mac, yet often we only use a fraction of them. The most obvious and most powerful of these are the *iLife* apps, *Mail*, *Safari* and *iCal*. However, there are plenty of other useful applications tucked away in your **Applications** folder. Let's start with *Image Capture*.

Image Capture is a very powerful, almost pro-grade program for getting images from various devices – not just cameras but also scanners – and then manipulating them, colour correcting them, giving them custom icons in *Finder*, copying pictures back to the camera and even setting its date and time. But there's more: you can also use *Image Capture* to share your devices on a network or over the internet and then use them on another computer. To do this enable web sharing in the **Devices** menu. You can even connect a camera to your computer at home, connect to your Mac over the web then view your home through the camera and take pictures!



Make a note of it!

Stickies lets you keep notes (like these) on your desktop. Use a Stickies note to jot down reminders, lists, or other information. You can also use notes to store frequently used text or graphics.

- To close this note, click the close button.
- To collapse this note, double click the title bar.

Your current notes appear when you open Stickies.

It's easy to customize your notes.

Make your notes stand out and get noticed.

- Format text using different **fonts** and font sizes
- Add emphasis with **bold** and *italic* text styles or color.
- Include graphics

Stickies has lots of other great features, including a spell
and export features, and other ways to arrange and custo
Plus, you'll find a "Make New Sticky Note" service in many

Look in Help to find out more about using Stickies.

Use Sticky Notes to create multiple clipboards that can always float on top of other windows

It's easy to customize your notes.

Make your notes stand out and get noticed.

- Format text using different **fonts** and font sizes
- Add emphasis with **bold** and *italic* text styles or color.
- Include graphics

Stickies has lots of other great features, including a spell checker, import and export features, and other ways to arrange and customize your notes. Plus, you'll find a "Make New Sticky Note" service in many applications.

Look in Help to find out more about using Stickies.

Sticky Notes act as reminders or they can be used as floating clipboards for copying and pasting.

Keeping notes

Next, *Stickies*. *Stickies* simulates those yellow Post-It notes that we tend to stick all over our monitors at work, but on your Desktop, so you can leave messages and reminders to yourself. To make one of the notes truely 'sticky', *Stickies* has a great feature that you'll love - you can make a note stay on top of all open windows by turning it into a 'floating window' using the **Note** menu, which you can also use to make this the default option for *Stickies*. If a floating note blocks your view, you can still have it float on top but 'rolled up' so you can only see its title, by double-clicking on the title bar at the top of the note. And if that still doesn't make *Stickies* sound helpful, think of how useful having multiple clipboards might be; you can copy and paste virtually anything into one of these little note screens.

Now let's look at *Dictionary*. It does pretty much what it says on the tin, at first, anyway... Yes, it's a dictionary, and an American one by default, but you can change the setting so that it uses British pronunciation. Go to the **Preferences...** option in the **Dictionary** menu to make the change. However, *Dictionary* is also a thesaurus, as well as a direct link to Wikipedia (the free online encyclopedia) – it even does a good job of reformatting Wikipedia pages to make them more aesthetically pleasing, and is a great way to browse Wikipedia on your Mac.

» QUICK TIP

As well as doing simple arithmetic, the Calculator app can do scientific and programming calculations, as well as unit and currency conversions, where it instantly grabs the latest currency rates from the internet.

> *"The Dictionary app is also a thesaurus, as well as a direct link to Wikipedia (the free online encyclopedia)"*

Next is *Disk Utility*. Lurking in the **Utilities** folder inside the **Applications** folder, it should be your first port of call if there's a problem with your Mac's disks or you need to format or partition a new disk. However, it also provides a great way to back up disks to a single file and to keep secrets if you don't want to go the whole hog with *FileVault* and encrypt your **Home** folder. (See the walkthrough on the opposite page for details).

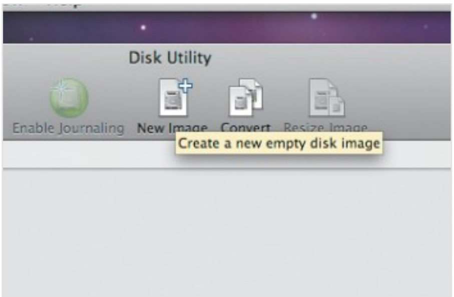
You'll probably already know *QuickTime Player*, but did you know that you can upgrade it to *QuickTime Pro* through System Preferences > QuickTime for £20? You get a whole slew of new features for video editing, like copy and paste, trimming, audio track editing and you can convert video to other formats. It's ideal for quick edits.

» HANDY APP / Photo Booth

Most Macs now comes equipped with a webcam - the iSight - embedded into the top of screen. Just about every instant messaging program, including iChat and Skype (except Microsoft Messenger) can use it for web conferencing. For still pictures, the best method is to use Photo Booth in your **Applications** folder. This allows you to take pictures with your webcam, as well as movies, make slideshows of your photos and also apply special effects to your images. You can also set different backgrounds, either ones provided by Apple or ones you provide yourself. It's worth remembering that if you have a laptop, to put it on a stable surface first, because Photo Booth will need to take a picture without you in it to remove the background from the picture.

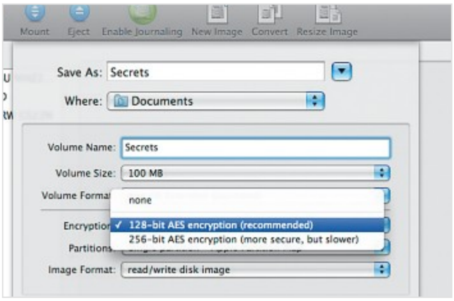
Photo Booth lets you take pictures with your iSight, add effects and use them in other applications.

» HOW TO / Create a password protected disk with Disk Utility


Disk Utility
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Create a new empty disk image

01 Create a disk image

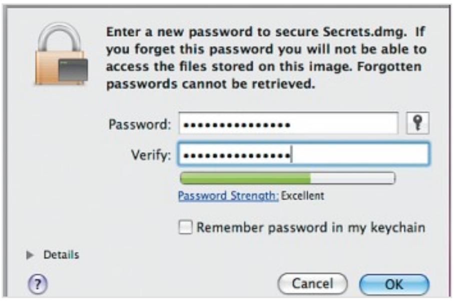
If you'd like to keep any files as private and confidential on your hard drive, *Disk Utility* can help by creating a password protected, encrypted disk image. First, click on the **New Image** button in the toolbar, making sure nothing's selected in the sidebar.


Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image

Save As: Secrets
Where: Documents
Volume Name: Secrets
Volume Size: 100 MB
Volume Format: none
Encryption: ✓ 128-bit AES encryption (recommended)
256-bit AES encryption (more secure, but slower)
Partitions
Image Format: read/write disk image

02 The right image

You now need to select a location for the image to go to, which you can do in the **Save** dialog. You'll find that there are also a large number of options but the important bit is to pick **read-write disk image** for the image format and an encryption method.



Enter a new password to secure Secrets.dmg. If you forget this password you will not be able to access the files stored on this image. Forgotten passwords cannot be retrieved.

Password: •••••••••••••••
Verify: •••••••••••••••
Password Strength: Excellent
☐ Remember password in my keychain

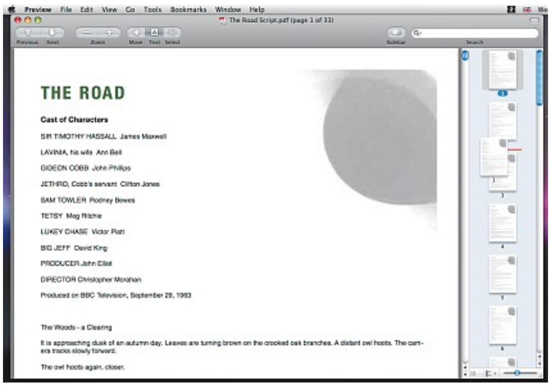
Details
Cancel
OK

03 Pick a password

Now provide a secure password. Remember not to click **Add to keychain** since this will get rid of the need to provide a password. You can copy files to the disk, eject it and double-click on the disk image to enter your password and use the disk again. ●

Viewing documents

You'll already be familiar with **Quick View** in Leopard (just press the [Spacebar] when you've selected something) and **Cover Flow** in *Finder* for getting instant previews of documents, but *Preview* in the **Applications** folder offers a more powerful way to view files. Although most of its viewing functions have been absorbed elsewhere, its killer feature is the ability to edit documents. So, for instance, if you want to move pages around in a PDF (or between PDFs), open them up in *Preview* and drag them around in the sidebar. You can highlight text (Tools > Mark Up), draw shapes and add notes and hyperlinks (Tools > Annotate), and view the pages in a slideshow (View > Slideshow). If you have favourite documents, you might also want to go for **Add Bookmarks** (Bookmarks > Add Bookmarks) so that *Preview* can open documents and then find the right page whenever you want. *Preview* also allows you to edit pictures. You can crop your images (Tools > Crop), change their size and resolution (Tools > Adjust Size), flip them and rotate them (Tools), edit their colours and sharpness (Tools > Adjust Colour) before exporting them in a different file format (File > Save As).


Preview
File
Edit
View
Go
Tools
Bookmarks
Window
Help
The Road Script.pdf (page 1 of 33)

THE ROAD

Cast of Characters

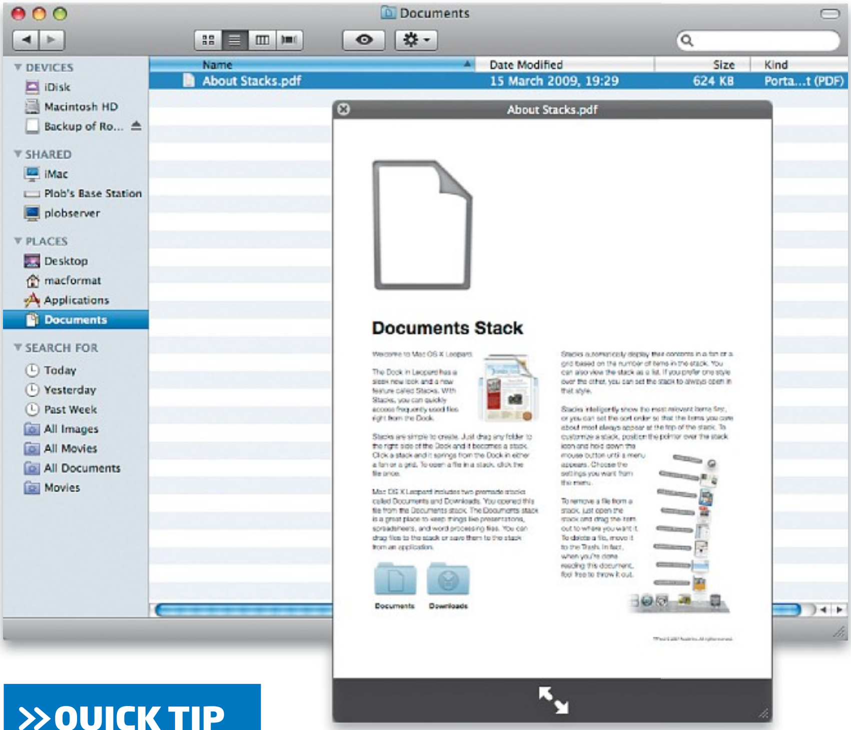
SIR TIMOTHY HASSALL James Maxwell
LAVINIA, his wife Ann Bell
GIDEON COBB John Phillips
JETHRO, Cobb's servant Clifton Jones
SAM TOWLER Rodney Bewes
TETSY Meg Ritchie
LUKEY CHASE Victor Platt
BIG JEFF David King
PRODUCER John Elliot
DIRECTOR Christopher Morahan
Produced on BBC Television, September 29, 1963

The Woods - a Clearing

It is approaching dusk of an autumn day. Leaves are turning brown on the crooked oak branches. A distant owl hoots. The camera tracks slowly forward.

The owl hoots again, closer.

In Preview you can edit a document as well as show its contents.


Documents
DEVICES
iDisk
Macintosh HD
Backup of Ro...
SHARED
iMac
Plob's Base Station
plobserver
PLACES
Desktop
macformat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
All Documents
Movies
Name
Date Modified
Size
Kind
About Stacks.pdf
15 March 2009, 19:29
624 KB
Porta...t (PDF)
About Stacks.pdf
Documents Stack
Documents
Downloads

Quick View is always handy, but Preview can offer much more.

Finally, *TextEdit* is a great little text editor that you may already know, but it has some tailormade tricks of its own you may not be aware of. For example, even if you don't own a copy of *Word* it will open *Word* documents for you, as well as saving out documents in a *Word* format. Also, if you want to turn a document into HTML for the web, all you have to do is save it as a web page (you can set your HTML preferences in the **Open and Save** preferences pane, if you wish) in the **Save** dialog and *TextEdit* will take care of the rest for you.

»

» QUICK TIP

The Front Row app provides a great way to enjoy all the content in your iTunes and iPhoto libraries, as well as your **Movies** folder, since it brings everything together in one place and is controllable using an Apple Remote or your keyboard.

Top 20 features of OS X

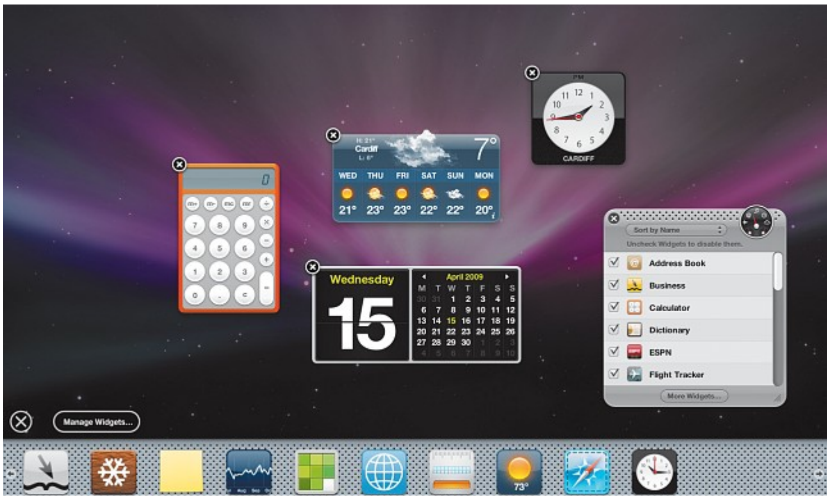
Use OS X to the full. Here's 20 great OS X features people forget

01 User accounts

A computer can be an expensive and potentially space-filling device. Most households are only likely to have one Mac, but if you don't want everyone knowing what you've been up to, or someone else would like their privacy, or just simply, you like your Mac to run in the way you like it (with the Desktop you want and the settings you like) then **User accounts** are a great feature. You can create ordinary accounts as well as administrator accounts that have the rights to make big changes to your Mac and install software for everyone. To create more than one account, go into *System Preferences*, pick **Accounts** and create a new account in the same way you did when you first set up your Mac. It's also a good idea to switch off automatic login at this point, to avoid anyone using the default account and so they don't have to keep logging out as soon as you start up your Mac.

02 Activate Keychain

Keychain saves you having to remember passwords, while keeping all your data secure. Available through most programs that access the net, including *Mail* and *Safari*, whenever you type in a password, you can save it in your keychain. When you return to that site, want to use the email server again or need to decrypt something, the keychain provides the password – providing you've authorised it – meaning you won't have to type it in. *Keychain Access* in **Utilities** allows you to edit your keychain, find out what a particular password is and specify your security settings as you wish. You can also set the keychain to lock after five minutes of inactivity by using Edit > Change settings for keychain login.


Cardiff
7°
WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON
21° 23° 23° 22° 22° 20°
CARDIFF
Wednesday
15
April 2009
Sort by Name
Uncheck Widgets to disable them.
Address Book
Business
Calculator
Dictionary
ESPN
Flight Tracker
More Widgets...
Manage Widgets...
73°

Dashboard has thousands of useful applications available with just the touch of a button.

>> QUICK TIP

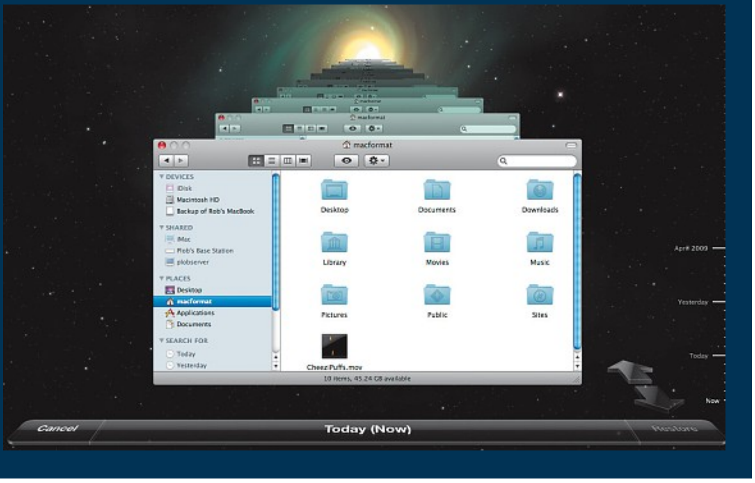
If you need to take a screenshot, hold down ⌘ ⇧ and 3. If you hold down ⌥ ⇧ and 4, you'll be able to mark out an area of the screen you'd like to capture using a flexible selection.

03 Invoke Dashboard

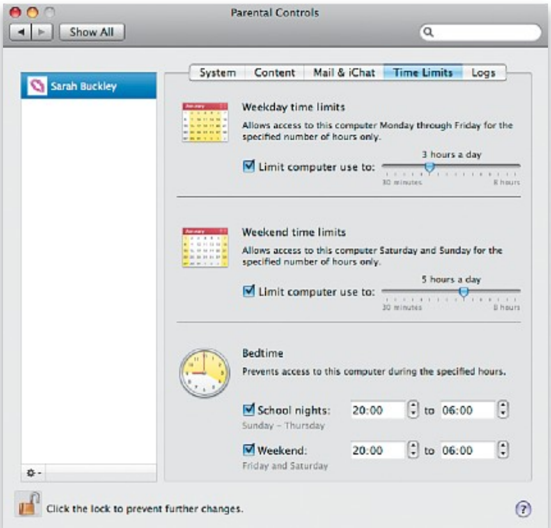
A simple press of F12 or a click of *Dashboard* in the Dock or the **Applications** folder will reveal the exciting world of widgets. These are handy little applications that give you access to things like weather forecasts, your calendar, and your *Address Book* without the hassle of having to launch the bigger applications like *iCal*. But, on top of these, there are also thousands of widgets that you can download for free, which perform an incredible range of tasks including games, file converters, webcam viewers, flight updates and lots more. And *Dashboard* also comes with a built-in widget manager to make sure things don't get too cluttered.

04 ENTER THE TIME MACHINE / Backing up your files

Making sure you have a backup of all your important data is vital. And that's not just your emails – don't forget all those purchases from the iTunes Store, your iPhoto library and every document you've got in your **Documents** folder. But remembering to do it is another matter. Time Machine is designed to make backing up and recovering your files easy. Just plug a hard drive into your Mac and it'll ask if you want to use the hard drive for backing up files. Leave it on overnight and your Mac will save virtually every file it has onto the hard drive. Then, every hour afterwards, it'll scan to see if you've changed any files and if you have, it'll save those as well, without deleting the other copies it's already made. Then, if you need to recover any of the previous versions of the file, just click Time Machine in the Dock or the **Applications** folder and locate the file you need – Time Machine will do the rest.


macformat
DEVICES
iDisk
Macintosh HD
Backup of Rob's MacBook
SHARED
iMac
Rob's Base Station
plobserver
PLACES
Desktop
macformat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Library
Movies
Music
Pictures
Public
Sites
Cheez Puffs.mov
10 items, 45.24 GB available
April 2009
Yesterday
Today
Now
Cancel
Today (Now)
Restore

Time Machine will keep backups of all your work and then let you search through them using a simple interface.



Weekday time limits

Allows access to this computer Monday through Friday for the specified number of hours only.

☑ Limit computer use to: 3 hours a day

Weekend time limits

Allows access to this computer Saturday and Sunday for the specified number of hours only.

☑ Limit computer use to: 5 hours a day

Bedtime

Prevents access to this computer during the specified hours.

☑ School nights: 20:00 to 06:00
Sunday – Thursday

☑ Weekend: 20:00 to 06:00
Friday and Saturday

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Parental Controls mean you can restrict access to your Mac.

05 Parental Controls

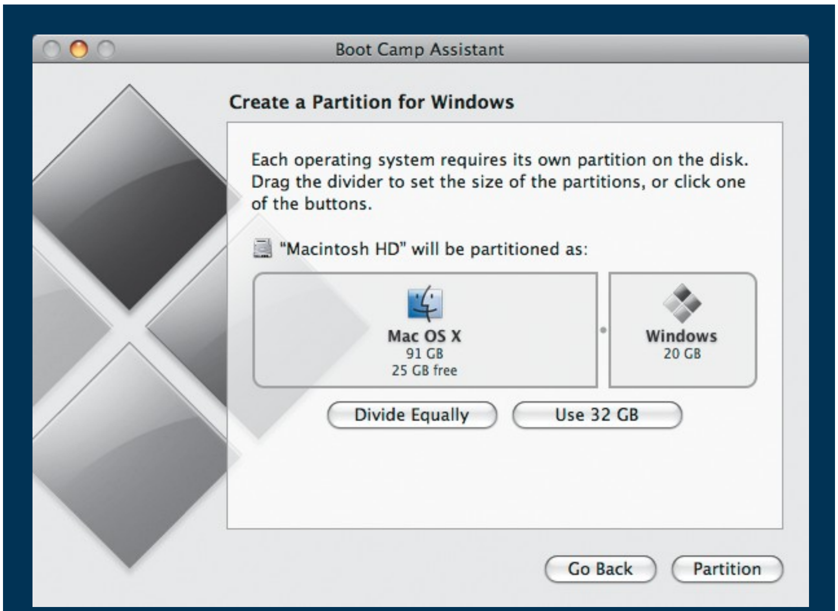
Once you've set up a separate account for your kids, you can – if you want – decide what they can use on the computer and how they use it via the Parental Controls (available from *System Preferences*) settings for their account. This can make it easier for your child to use your Mac, by giving them a simpler *Finder* to use. But if you're worried about what they're using it for, you can restrict access to particular applications as well as websites in *Safari*; hide the swear words in the OS X *Dictionary*; limit who they can chat with and who they can email; limit how much time they spend on the Mac and when they're allowed to go on it; and keep logs of what they've been browsing, what they've been using and who they've been chatting to.

06 Automate tasks

Automator lurks in the Applications folder and, as its name suggests, is designed to automate regular tasks. It's a bit like sticking bits of Lego together: want to grab everything on your Desktop that isn't a folder, move it to another folder, hide the Dock, then start playing a track in *iTunes*? Then you can stick together all the parts of the process from the library of *Automator* functions – many applications now come with their own *Automator* actions as well – save the completed action and then every time you double-click or run it from a contextual menu or menu, your Mac will repeat that Lego collection.

07 Sync between Macs

MobileMe is Apple's "in the cloud" system for storing information and syncing it between computers. Available almost everywhere on your Mac but configured primarily in the MobileMe pane in *System Preferences*, MobileMe provides users with gigabytes of online storage for sharing files, an email account, software for backing up files to the internet or another medium such as a DVD, as well as a way to keep your contacts, calendar, keychain items and other information in sync. Programs such as *Transmit* and Microsoft *Entourage* can use MobileMe to sync their own information, too.



Create a Partition for Windows

Each operating system requires its own partition on the disk. Drag the divider to set the size of the partitions, or click one of the buttons.

"Macintosh HD" will be partitioned as:

Mac OS X
91 GB
25 GB free

Windows
20 GB

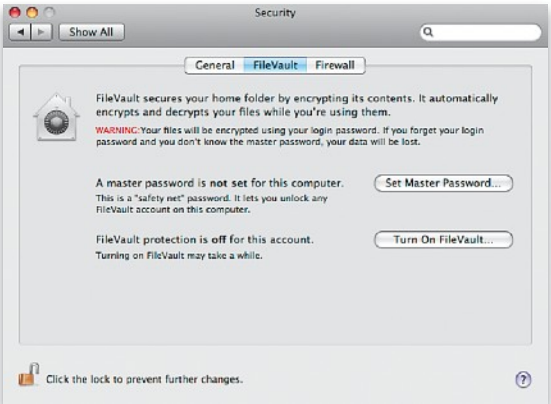
Boot Camp can partition your hard drive so you can use Windows as well as OS X on your Mac.

08 BOOT CAMP / Run OS X and Windows

If you have an Intel-based Mac, Boot Camp gives you the chance to experience both OS X and Windows on the same machine. When you run it (find it in the **Utilities** folder) it'll split your Mac's hard drive into two separate chunks: one for Mac OS X, the other for Windows (this can be either Vista or XP SP2). Then, providing you have a full installer CD or DVD, you'll be able to boot off the installer, install Windows on the chunk of the hard drive you've set aside, and also be able to choose which one you want to use whenever you start up – just by holding down the ⌥ key. If you ever decide you don't want to use Windows any more, you can use Boot Camp to delete it off your Mac and restore the hard drive so that OS X can occupy all of it again.

»QUICK TIP

To take a time-delayed screenshot on your Mac, use the Grab application in your **Utilities** folder then select **Timed Screen** from the **Capture** menu and you'll get 10 seconds to get things ready.



FileVault secures your home folder by encrypting its contents. It automatically encrypts and decrypts your files while you're using them.

WARNING: Your files will be encrypted using your login password. If you forget your login password and you don't know the master password, your data will be lost.

A master password is not set for this computer.
This is a "safety net" password. It lets you unlock any FileVault account on this computer.

FileVault protection is off for this account.
Turning on FileVault may take a while.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

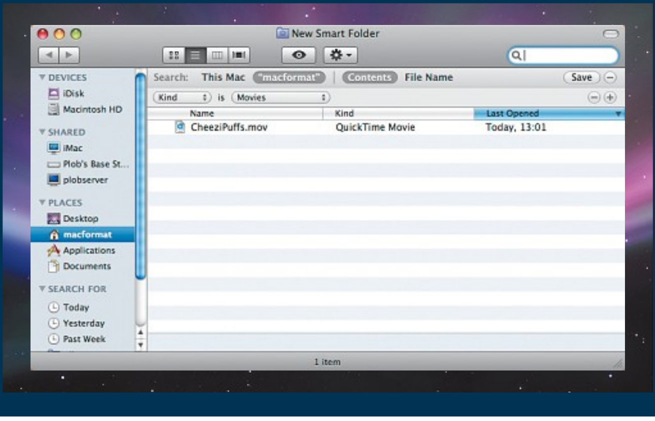
FileVault encrypts all the files in your Home folder.

09 Encrypt your Home folder

Although you can password-protect your Mac to stop people gaining access to your documents, if it is ever stolen, they can still take your hard drive out and read the data. *FileVault*, accessible through Security > FileVault in *System Preferences*, encrypts everything in your home folder so that if your Mac is ever stolen, the thief won't been able to read the data. It will be seamless, so you won't notice it working. If you're worried about passwords getting lost, set a password for *FileVault* that will unlock any *FileVault* account on your Mac. »

11 SECURING YOUR MAC / Keeping it safe from prying eyes

Keeping your Mac secure against sneaky thieves can be very easy, thanks to OS X's built-in functions, such as FileVault and Keychain – although you're going to have to decide how much inconvenience you feel like putting yourself through. There are some features of the **Security** pane in System Preferences that are no-brainers if you're worried about people playing with your Mac's settings while you're away, as long as you don't mind having to enter passwords now and again. Requiring a password to wake a computer from sleep or a screensaver should always be your first move. Anyone can press ⌘ ctrl and the power key to restart your Mac instantly, so if you disable automatic login this will prevent them getting in that way. Another option you could consider is **Use secure virtual memory**. This is probably for the more paranoid but is worth considering if you are worried about security.



Search: This Mac "macformat" | Contents File Name

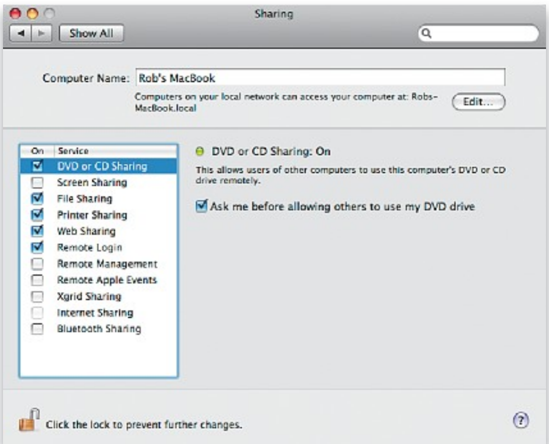
Kind is Movies

Name	Kind	Last Opened
CheeziPuffs.mov	QuickTime Movie	Today, 13:01

There are many security settings on your Mac, although some will make you work harder than others.

12 Turn sharing on

Your Mac is a pretty powerful machine, and there might be a whole range of things you want to share with others, such as your files, any printers you've connected to it or even its net connection. The System Preferences > Sharing pane lets you share many functions of your Mac – both with Macs and Windows PCs. The most popular option is **File Sharing**, which lets you share either your whole Mac or just folders on it. If you click on the **Options** button, you can choose whether to share files using **AFP** (other Macs), **FTP** (anyone with a special FTP program) or **SMB** (Windows and Linux). Your Mac will then appear in the *Finder* sidebar of any other Mac on the network. But it also gives you some remote control functions, allowing you to connect to it over a network and take charge of it. If you know UNIX, you can use *Terminal* and the 'ssh' to access your Mac and issue it commands by activating the **Remote Login** function; you can also allow other Macs to take over and control your Mac (but only if they have an account) using the **Screen Sharing** function. If you have a MacBook Air and didn't buy the optional plug-in DVD player, you can still access DVDs over a network by sharing another Mac's DVD drive using **DVD or CD Sharing**. And if you feel like it, you can turn your Mac into a web server as well with **Web Sharing**.



Computer Name: Rob's MacBook

Computers on your local network can access your computer at: Robs-MacBook.local

On	Service
☑	DVD or CD Sharing
☐	Screen Sharing
☑	File Sharing
☑	Printer Sharing
☑	Web Sharing
☑	Remote Login
☐	Remote Management
☐	Remote Apple Events
☐	Xgrid Sharing
☐	Internet Sharing
☐	Bluetooth Sharing

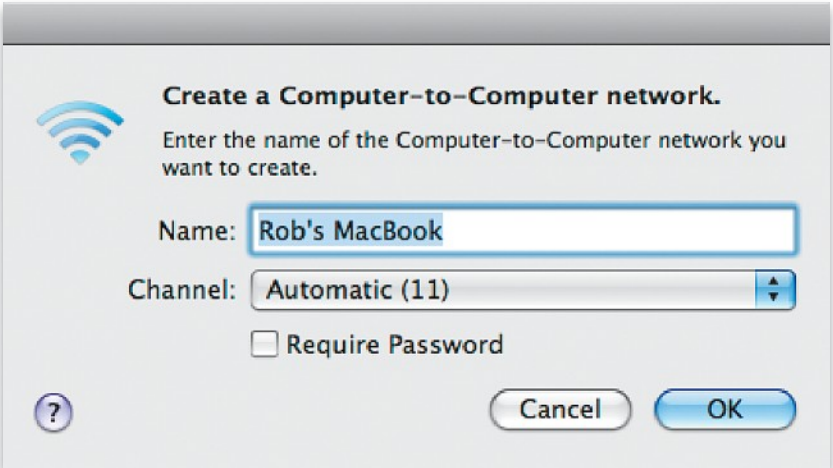
● DVD or CD Sharing: On

This allows users of other computers to use this computer's DVD or CD drive remotely.

☑ Ask me before allowing others to use my DVD drive

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

You can share files, your screen, web pages and your DVD drive.



Create a Computer-to-Computer network.

Enter the name of the Computer-to-Computer network you want to create.

Name: Rob's MacBook

Channel: Automatic (11)

☐ Require Password

You can turn your Mac into a wireless router so that you have a network wherever you go.

13 Create an AirPort network

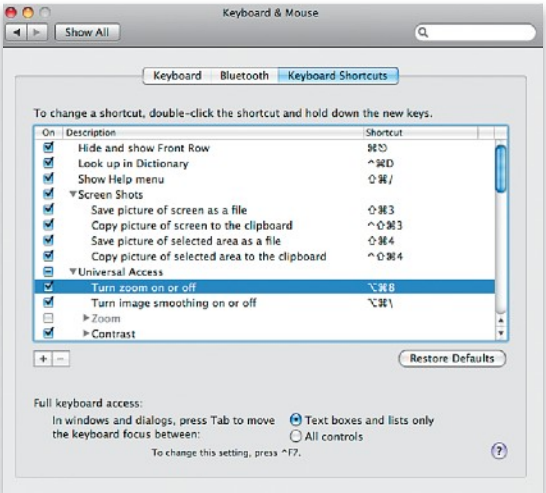
If you want to link two computers together but you don't have any cables to hand (or there's no available WiFi network nearby), you can make your own network instead. All you have to do is simply go to the **AirPort** menu bar item, click **Create Network…**, accept the default settings and click **OK**. Once this has been done, any other WiFi-equipped computer will be able to see your Mac's network. They can then join it and you will be able to use it as you would on any other network for sharing files, printers and so on.

14 Use Back to My Mac

If you did buy a MobileMe subscription and the gods of computer are looking favourably upon you, **Back To My Mac** will allow you to connect from any other Leopard-equipped Mac back to your home Mac (providing you've left it switched on). You'll need to start it in the **Back to My Mac** tab of the **MobileMe** pane in *System Preferences* first, and then configure the Mac you're on with your MobileMe account details. But once you do, and if everything's going according to plan, you should be able to see your Mac appear in the list of devices in *Finder's* sidebars. You will now be able to grab files from it or take it over making it do whatever you want.

15 ZOOMING

Having trouble reading the screen? You can zoom in and out by holding down the ctrl key and using two fingers on the trackpad or using the trackball on a Mighty Mouse.



To change a shortcut, double-click the shortcut and hold down the new keys.

On	Description	Shortcut
☑	Hide and show Front Row	⌘⎋
☑	Look up in Dictionary	^⌘D
☑	Show Help menu	⇧⌘/
☑	▼Screen Shots	
☑	Save picture of screen as a file	⇧⌘3
☑	Copy picture of screen to the clipboard	^⇧⌘3
☑	Save picture of selected area as a file	⇧⌘4
☑	Copy picture of selected area to the clipboard	^⇧⌘4
⊟	▼Universal Access	
☑	Turn zoom on or off	⌥⌘8
☑	Turn image smoothing on or off	⌥⌘\
☐	▶Zoom	
☑	▶Contrast	

Full keyboard access:
In windows and dialogs, press Tab to move the keyboard focus between: ● Text boxes and lists only ○ All controls
To change this setting, press ^F7.

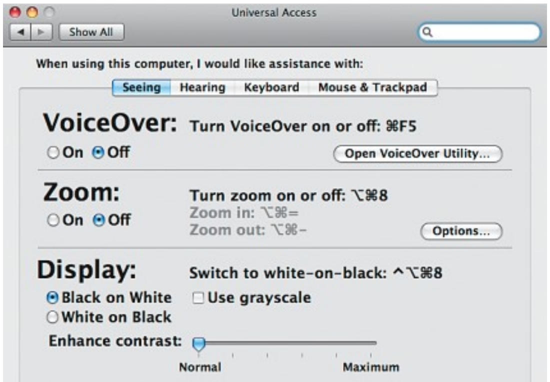
You can change keyboard shortcuts for most applications.

16 Keyboard shortcuts

Over time, you'll become proficient with your Mac and instead of using its menus for functions, you'll learn keyboard shortcuts that you can press in order to activate menu options. But if you don't like the shortcuts, you can change them, not just in OS X's bundled applications but in any other application on your Mac. Locate the **Keyboard & Mouse** pane in *System Preferences*, select the **Keyboard Shortcuts** tab and you'll see a list of all the existing shortcuts. Double-click on a shortcut to change it or click on the checkbox next to it to deactivate it. You can add new shortcuts by clicking on + in the window, selecting an application and then choosing the menu command you want to add a shortcut to.

17 Universal access

If you have a disability, *Universal Access*, which can be found in *System Preferences*, will make your Mac easier to use. As well as providing access to *VoiceOver* (also in the **Utilities** folder and reads out the Mac's screen contents for those who have trouble seeing the Mac's display), it also makes the Mac's screen easier to read by changing the contrast. It can also make the keyboard and mouse easier to use, if you have trouble with them. If you're deaf or work in an environment where constant beeps would be irritating, then you can use the **Hearing** tab to make the screen flash whenever there's an alert.



When using this computer, I would like assistance with:

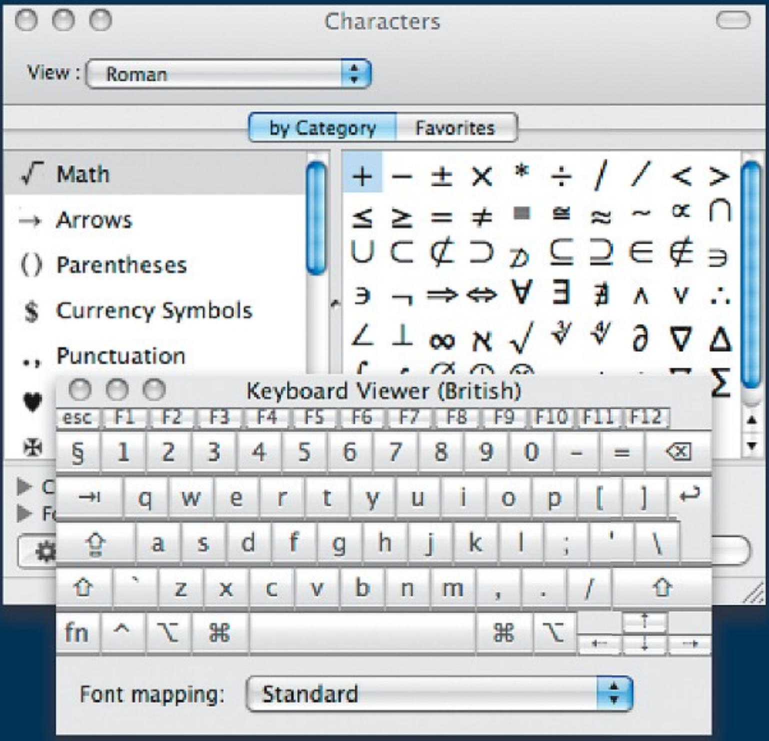
VoiceOver: Turn VoiceOver on or off: ⌘F5
○ On ● Off

Zoom: Turn zoom on or off: ⌥⌘8
Zoom in: ⌥⌘=
Zoom out: ⌥⌘-
○ On ● Off

Display: Switch to white-on-black: ^⌥⌘8
● Black on White ☐ Use grayscale
○ White on Black
Enhance contrast: Normal

The Universal Access pane isn't just useful for those with disabilities.

18 INTERNATIONAL / Language set-up



View: Roman

Font mapping: Standard

The International pane in System Preferences enables you to mind your language.

Although you may not need to run any of your applications in a foreign language, the **International** pane in System Preferences still has some useful functions. **Formats** lets you tell your Mac what languages you'd prefer to use. If you want to add British English, note that it isn't on the list so you'll need to click on the **Edit** List button to add it. You can then drag it to the top of the list. By default, OS X's built-in spelling and grammar checker uses these preferences so changing this will ensure your spelling remains on the right side of the Atlantic. The **Input Menu** tab also provides a way to help those who haven't yet mastered all the key presses on their keyboard. As well as giving you a way to switch between the keyboards for different languages, the available layouts include a **Character Palette** for embedding rare characters in documents and a keyboard viewer for seeing what happens when you click a particular key.

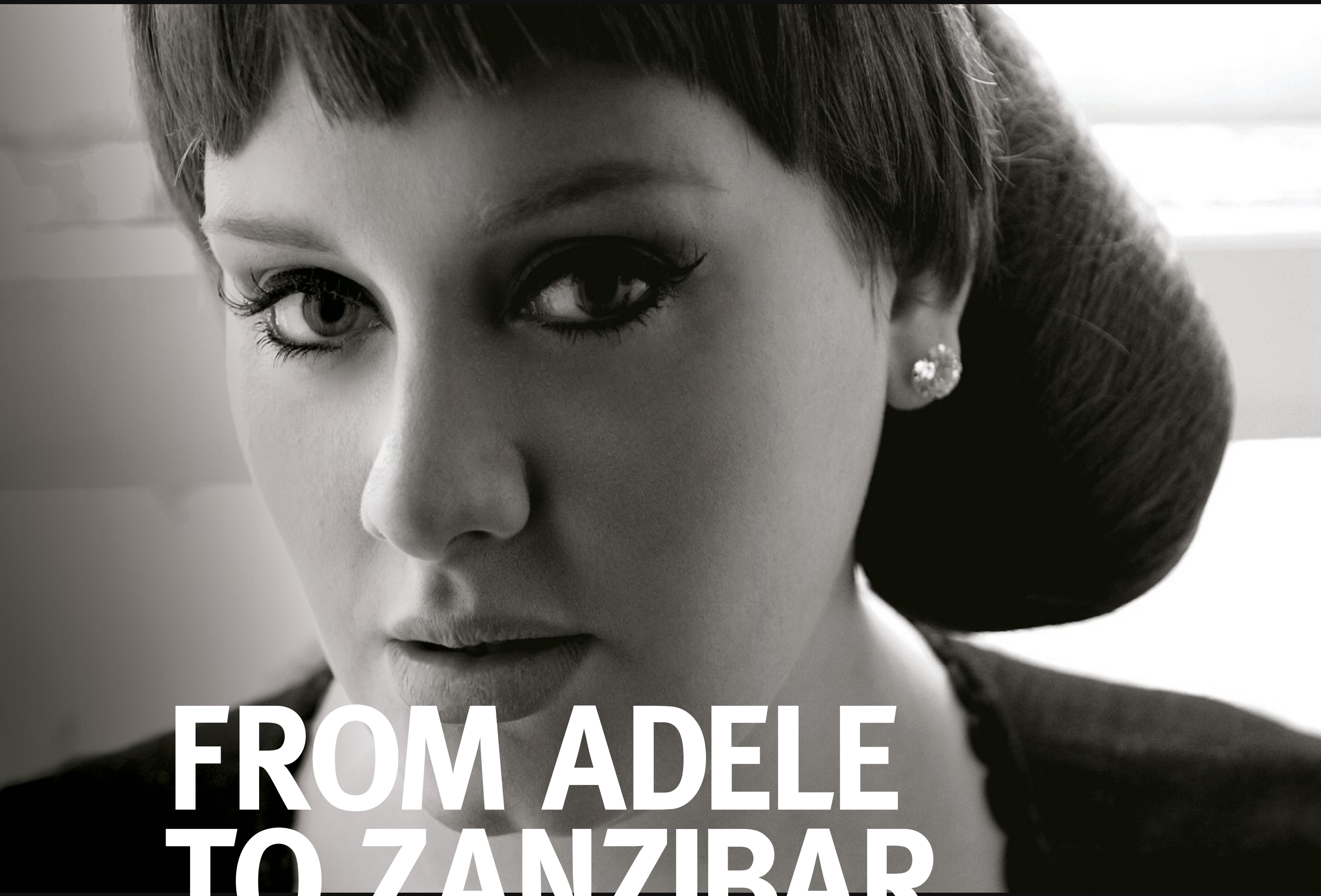
19 TERMINAL

Housed underneath OS X is the power of Unix. If you know your 'awk' from your 'grep', you can use Terminal in the **Utilities** folder to take charge of what's under the Mac's bonnet.

20 Activate voice control

Amazing though it may seem, it is possible to control your Mac just using your voice alone. The **Speech** *System Preferences* pane will enable you to activate this feature. Then, depending on how you've set things up, you can give your Mac orders, just by pressing a key to let it know you're talking to it. The orders you can issue out are called **Speakable Items** and you can see a list of them by clicking on the **Commands** tab, then clicking on the **Open Speakable Items** folder. However, do bear in mind that your Mac can't work miracles, so you will need to train it to recognise your voice. It'll also help to use a microphone if you want the best results. Once you've got *Speech* working the way you want it to, you will be able to expand it to include even more sophisticated controls to help you out. If you wish, you can enable the **Front Window** and **Menu Bar** command sets so you can trigger menu options using your voice. ●

emusic



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>
> **THE ESSENTIAL MAC ASTRONOMY GUIDE P51**

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Adjust
Levels
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100%
Exposure:
Contrast:
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Avoid saturating the skin tones
Definition:
Highlights:
Shadows:
Sharpness:
De-noise:
Temperature:
Tint:
Reset
Copy
Paste

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How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

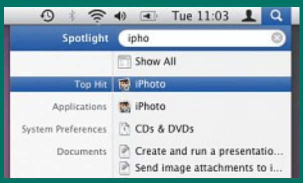
Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

You'd be forgiven for thinking that we'd poured all our energy into last month's redesign issue, leaving nothing for this month's. Nonsense! If anything, this issue's how-to section is even more packed than before!

There are a couple of tutorials that I'd like to highlight, as I think they demonstrate everything that *MacFormat* stands for. First, Rod Lawton's fantastic piece on categories in *Numbers* takes a potentially complex subject and makes it easy to understand and access; and best of all, once you've taken the time to work through it, it'll equip you with knowledge and skills that will save you bucketloads of time in the months ahead.

And then there's Neale Monks' – ahem – stellar tutorial on using your Mac for astronomy. It's a fantastic overview of the topic, stuffed with professional advice, and practical knowledge that you can use to open your eyes to the wonders of the heavens; I love that we can take the time to turn the spotlight on some subjects that are a bit unusual.

Of course, there's lots more besides, so turn over and let the learning commence!


Tue 11:03
Spotlight
ipho
Show All
Top Hit
iPhoto
Applications
iPhoto
System Preferences
CDs & DVDs
Documents
Create and run a presentatio...
Send image attachments to i...

>> EXPERT TIP

Remember that Spotlight can act as an application launcher. Activate it - the default shortcut is ⌘+[Spacebar] - then type the first letter or two of the app's name. Spotlight should select the application result first, so you can just tap ↵ to launch it.

Work with gradient maps

Learn how to use Photoshop's Gradient Map tool for creating stunning images

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Adobe Photoshop or Elements 6 (from £68, **www.adobe.com/uk**)

You could use *Photoshop* for years and never even notice the Gradient Map tool, let alone use it. But it must surely be important for Adobe to give it its own adjustment layer in both *Photoshop* and *Elements 6*?

The name sounds technical, but it describes this tool's actual function very well. It takes the brightness values in the image and 'maps' them on to a gradient.

The simplest example is a black-white gradient map. What you get is a black and white image, where darker tones are mapped on to the darker greys in the gradient and the lighter tones on to the lighter greys.

There are many different ways of converting colour images to black and white, of course, including greyscale conversions, desaturating the colours and using the Channel Mixer, so why use yet another?

Well, each method generates quite different results, and it's worth experimenting to find the one which suits you best. Each method has its uses (and its fans), but a black-white gradient map produces particularly deep and intense images compared to straightforward greyscale conversions or desaturation.

But it doesn't stop there. You can also create equally rich sepia-toned images (or any other colour, in fact). The method is simpler than using duotones, which requires a change of image mode and a switch to the use of 'inks', and it's more effective than using the Colorize command in the Hue/Saturation dialog and the sepia tint effect in *Elements*.

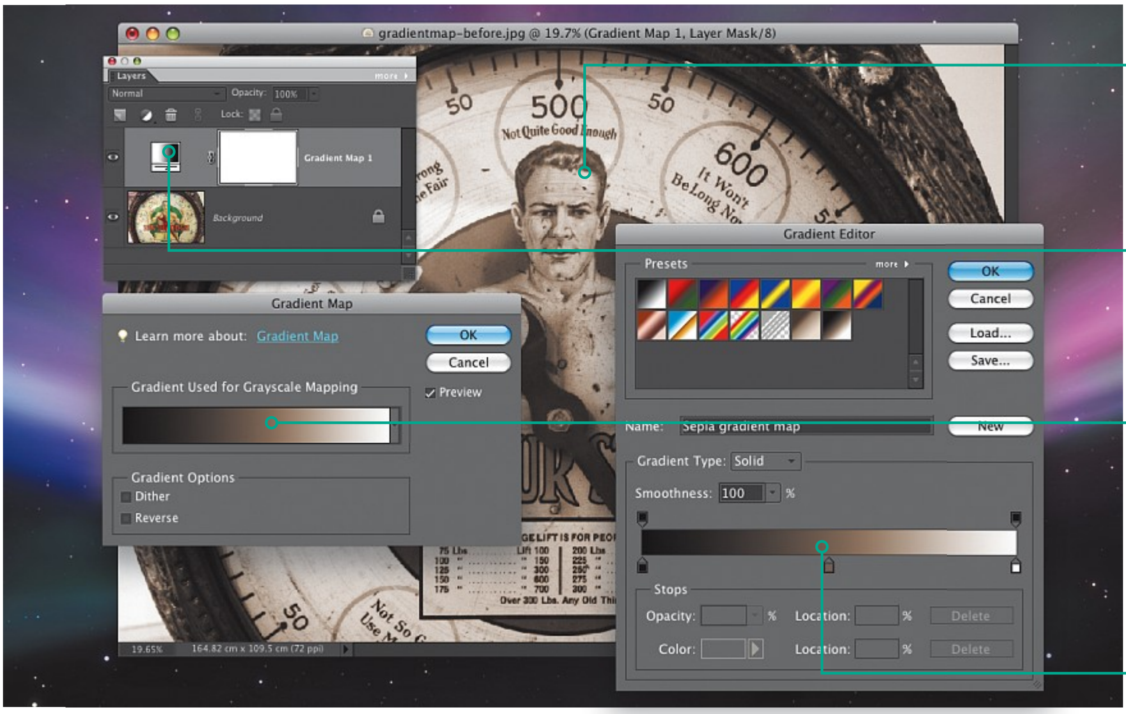
> *"Gradient maps take the brightness values in an image and map them on to a gradient"*

To control the effect of a gradient map, simply edit the gradient itself; the walkthrough shows how this is done. And once you've designed a gradient to produce exactly the results you're looking for, you can save it as a preset. This means that the next time you apply a gradient map adjustment layer, you can just select your gradient from the list.

Finally, you can even adjust the image brightness and contrast by making changes to the gradient itself, and this is explained in the final step. You wouldn't use this method to make day-to-day tonal adjustments, but it's a useful way of designing a selection of gradients for instant 'off-the-peg' effects.

Rod Lawton

QUICK LOOK / Using Photoshop's Gradient Map


gradientmap-before.jpg @ 19.7% (Gradient Map 1, Layer Mask/8)
Layers
more
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Gradient Map 1
Background
Gradient Map
Learn more about: Gradient Map
OK
Cancel
Gradient Used for Grayscale Mapping
☑ Preview
Gradient Options
☐ Dither
☐ Reverse
19.65%
164.82 cm x 109.5 cm (72 ppi)
Gradient Editor
Presets
more
OK
Cancel
Load...
Save...
New
Stops
Opacity: %
Location: %
Delete
Color:
Location: %
Delete

Name: Sepia gradient map

Gradient Type: Solid

Smoothness: 100 %

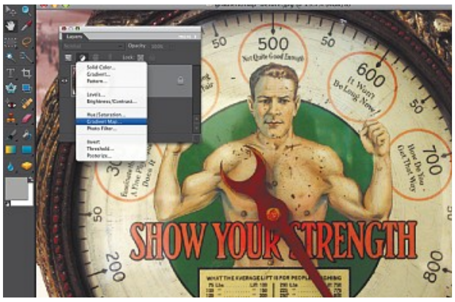
Sepia-toned result
This colour image has been transformed into a sepia-toned black and white shot with a custom gradient map.

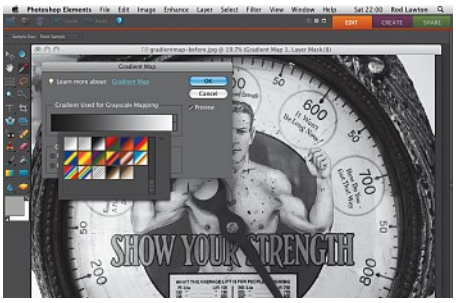
Gradient Map layer
To change an effect, double-click the adjustment layer to see the **Gradient Map** dialog.

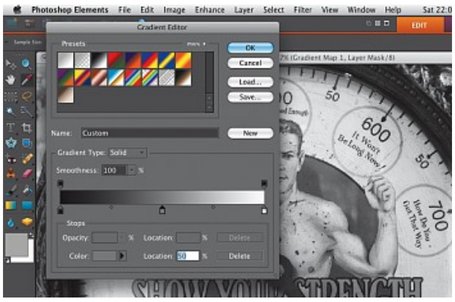
Gradient dialog
Select an existing preset in the editor, click the gradient or the arrow to the right.

Gradient Editor
Add new gradient stops to produce complex gradients and toning effects here.

HOW TO / Control and edit the gradient







01 Adjustment layers

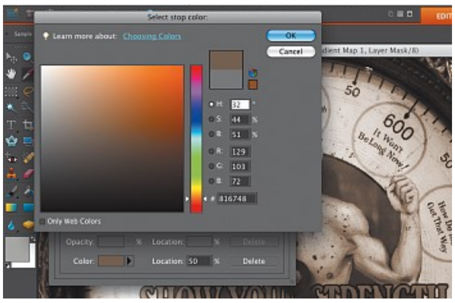
Add gradient maps as adjustment layers so you can change the results by adjusting the gradient or by choosing another. You can also reduce the layer opacity to tint the underlying image more subtly, or experiment with blend modes to create special effects.

02 Black and white

The default black-white gradient produces a faithful black and white rendition of our original – the brightness values have been mapped on to the gradient's greyscale values. Using a colour gradient produces bizarre (i.e. not always successful!) effects.

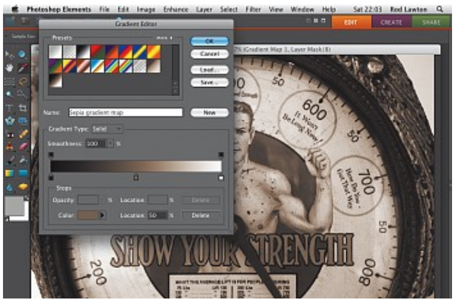
03 Modifying the gradient

Modifying the gradient changes the way the brightness values are mapped. Try inserting a new colour stop at the gradient's mid-point. If this is set to a 50% grey you won't notice any difference, but if you drag it left or right you'll see it lightens or darkens the image's tones.



04 Changing colours

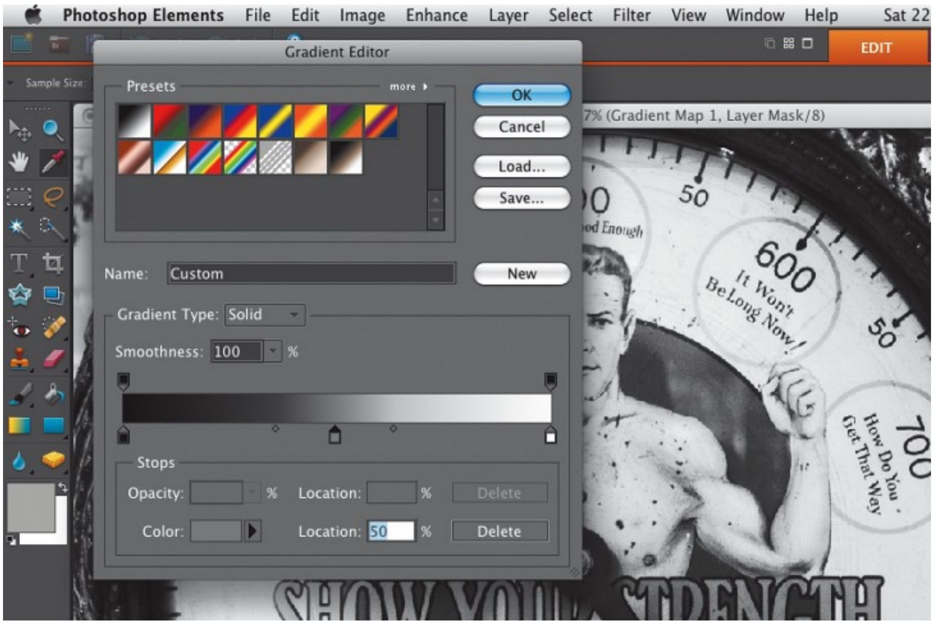
If you change the colour of this centre stop, you can add an effective colour tint. Click the stop to select it, then click the **Color** button below to display the **Color Picker**. The value selected here has produced a rich, dense sepia effect; you can experiment with other colours.



Name: Sepia gradient map

05 Making adjustments

It can take time to adjust the gradient to your liking, but you'll end up with one you'll want to use again. The gradient's name will be **Custom**, but you can type in a more descriptive name and then click the **New** button – the gradient's then saved with your presets.

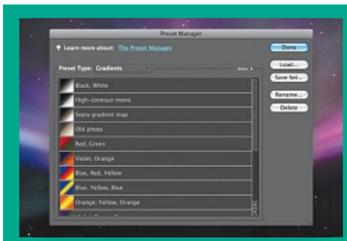


Name: Custom

Gradient Type: Solid

Smoothness: 100 %

Location: 50 %



Preset Type: Gradients

- Black, White
- High-contrast mono
- Sepia gradient map
- Old photo
- Red, Green
- Violet, Orange
- Blue, Red, Yellow
- Blue, Yellow, Blue
- Orange, Yellow, Orange

QUICK TIP

By default, gradient presets are displayed as thumbnails only, making it difficult to identify the ones you want. Use the **Preset Manager** to swap to a list view and change the order of the gradients so yours move to the top of the list.

06 Image contrast

Adding a centre stop and moving it to change the brightness is similar in principle to using curves and 'pushing' the centre of the curve up or down. In both cases, the middle tones are shifted up or down the brightness scale. But it's also possible to adjust the image contrast with a gradient map. When you click on a centre (or end) stop, mid-point markers appear. You can move these left and right to shift the tones in the regions between the two stops. In the image above you can see how the mid-points have been moved closer to the centre stop. This has the effect of darkening the darker tones and lightening the lighter ones; it produces a contrast increase. ●

Use keywords in iPhoto

With keywords you can find the photos you want in an instant

»KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Apple iPhoto (£69, part of iLife '09, **http//:store.apple.com/uk**)

Keywords are a standard tool for organising and searching for photos in image-editing cataloguing applications. A keyword can be a single word or a short phrase, and you can apply as many keywords as you like to a photo. You can use *iPhoto*'s **Keywords** palette to view and edit all of your keywords, apply them to selected images or remove them as necessary.

iPhoto's keywording system is not the most sophisticated in the world, but it is very quick and simple to use. Its main limitation is that you can only create a certain number of keywords before the **Keyword** palette becomes overloaded, as our annotation below shows. Also, *iPhoto* lacks the hierarchical keywording system that *Aperture* and *Lightroom* have. You can't subdivide your keywords into more easily manageable groups, so plan what keywords you want to use beforehand. You can store additional information in the **Description** fields (see our Quick Tip).

Keywords can be applied either by typing them into the **Keywords** field below each photo or by using the **Keywords** palette – this is quicker, enables you to see what keywords already exist, and lets you apply them to several images at once.

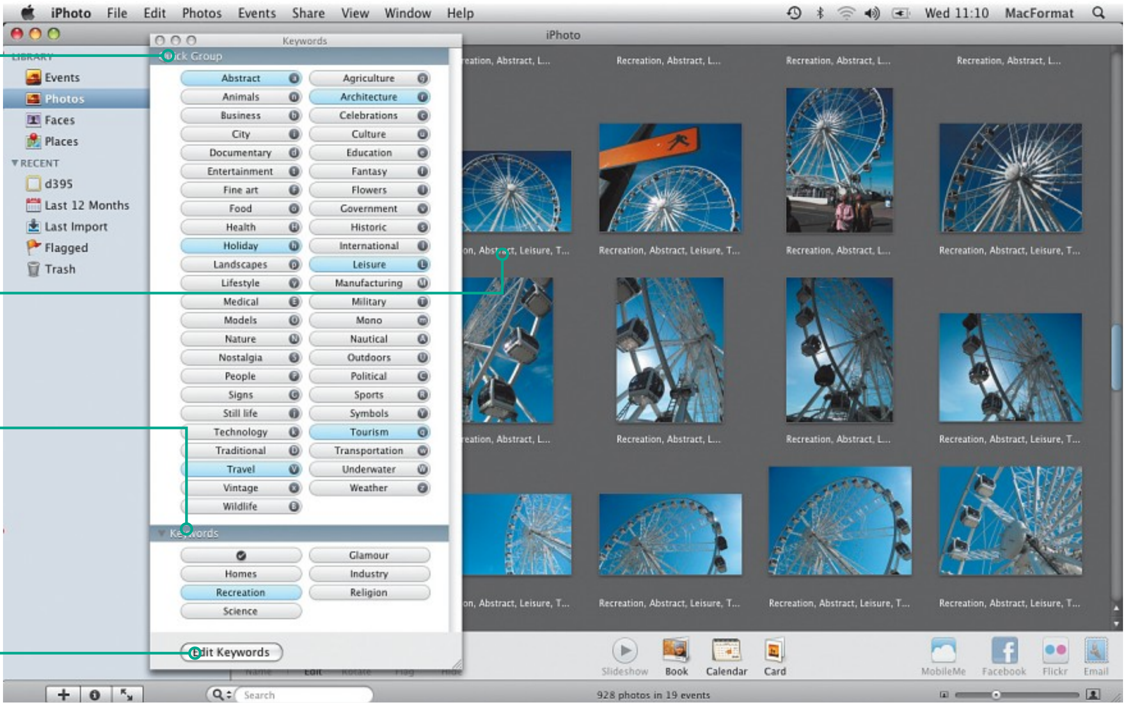
To apply keywords from the palette, select the image or images, then click the keyword. To add more keywords, click those too. Later, you can see what keywords have been applied to any image by selecting it – the **Keywords** palette then highlights the keywords which have been used in blue. If you decide you want to remove any keywords, just click on them to deselect them.

> *"The keywording system is not the most sophisticated, but it is very quick and simple to use"*

The keyword shortcuts are particularly useful. When you create keywords with the palette, they're automatically assigned a single-letter shortcut (the keyword's initial letter or, if that's being used by another keyword, by the next letter, or the next and so on). These keywords are then added to the **Quick Group** list at the top of the palette. Manage these manually by dragging keywords from the **Quick Group** section to the **Keywords** section and vice versa. It's a quick and easy way to keep the keywords you use most often at the top.

Rod Lawton

»QUICK LOOK / Keywords and shortcuts


iPhoto
File
Edit
Photos
Events
Share
View
Window
Help
Wed 11:10
MacFormat
iPhoto
Keywords
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
Faces
Places
RECENT
d395
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Trash
Quick Group
Abstract
Agriculture
Animals
Architecture
Business
Celebrations
City
Culture
Documentary
Education
Entertainment
Fantasy
Fine art
Flowers
Food
Government
Health
Historic
Holiday
International
Landscapes
Leisure
Lifestyle
Manufacturing
Medical
Military
Models
Mono
Nature
Nautical
Nostalgia
Outdoors
People
Political
Signs
Sports
Still life
Symbols
Technology
Tourism
Traditional
Transportation
Travel
Underwater
Vintage
Weather
Wildlife
Keywords
✓
Glamour
Homes
Industry
Recreation
Religion
Science
Edit Keywords
Recreation, Abstract, L...
Recreation, Abstract, Leisure, T...
Slideshow
Book
Calendar
Card
MobileMe
Facebook
Flickr
Email
Search
928 photos in 19 events

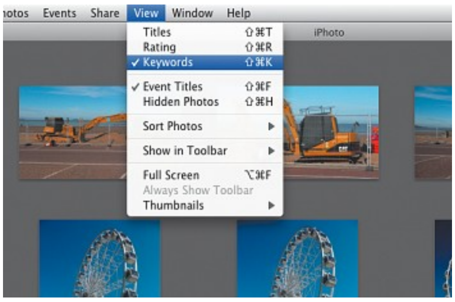
Shortcuts
Quick Group keywords have shortcuts. To apply them, select the image(s) and press the shortcut key.

Keyword list
Any keywords applied to an image are displayed as a list. You can change the order.

Lesser used shortcuts
The **Keywords** section shows keywords that don't have single-letter shortcuts.

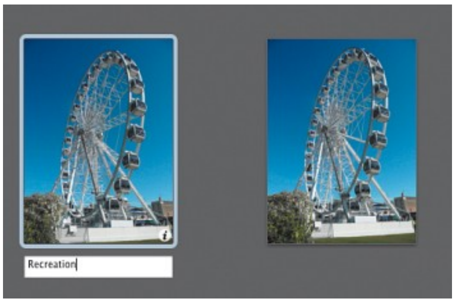
Editing options
Click **Edit** to add, remove or rename keywords, or add, remove or modify shortcuts.

»HOW TO / Make searching for photos easier with keywords


iotos
Events
Share
View
Window
Help
iPhoto
Titles ⇧⌘T
Rating ⇧⌘R
✓ Keywords ⇧⌘K
✓ Event Titles ⇧⌘F
Hidden Photos ⇧⌘H
Sort Photos ▸
Show in Toolbar ▸
Full Screen ⌥⌘F
Always Show Toolbar
Thumbnails ▸

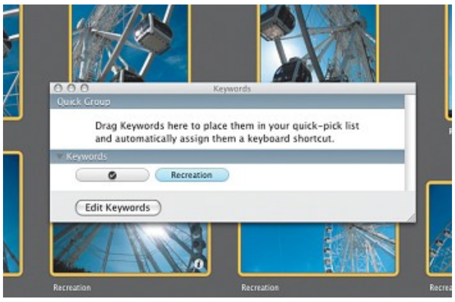
01 Display keywords

The first thing to do is make sure *iPhoto* is set up to display keywords, and you do this via the **View** menu. We're going to display keywords only (not **Titles** or **Rating**) just to keep the display uncluttered. None of our images so far has any keywords added.


Recreation

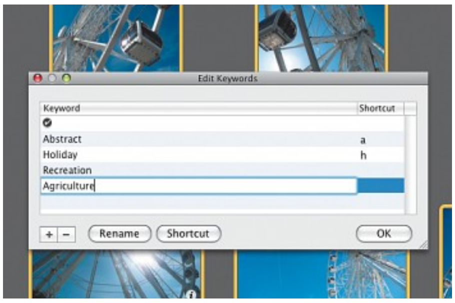
02 Adding keywords

If you move the mouse pointer over a thumbnail with no keywords, the words **add keywords** appear underneath. You can click on these to display the **Keyword** field, and type in a keyword directly. Note that you can only use this method on one image at time, though.


Keywords
Quick Group
Drag Keywords here to place them in your quick-pick list and automatically assign them a keyboard shortcut.
Keywords
✓
Recreation
Edit Keywords
Recreation
Recreation
Recrea

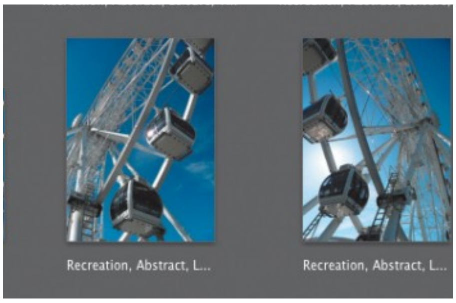
03 The Keywords palette

Any keyword you add in this way is automatically added to your *iPhoto* library's **Keyword** list, and you can display this via the **Window** menu or using the ⌘+K shortcut. You can now add keywords to multiple images; just select the images and click the keyword.


Edit Keywords
Keyword
Shortcut
✓
Abstract a
Holiday h
Recreation
Agriculture
+ −
Rename
Shortcut
OK

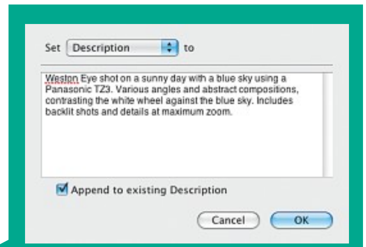
04 Adding more keywords

You can use this palette to add more keywords. To do this, click the **Edit** button and then use the + button in the bottom left-hand corner to add a keyword. Note that *iPhoto* automatically chooses a single-letter shortcut for each one to make them quicker to apply.


Recreation, Abstract, L...
Recreation, Abstract, L...

05 Keyword display

You can add any number of keywords to your images, and they're displayed underneath the image thumbnails. You can edit them by clicking on them – each keyword then becomes a button you can select and drag into a new position if you want to change the order.

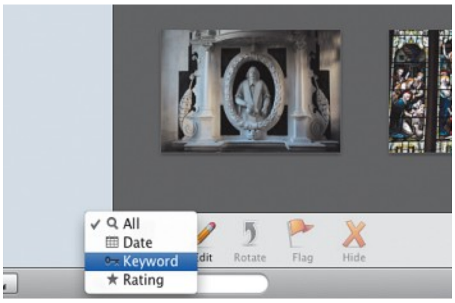

Set Description to

Weston Eye shot on a sunny day with a blue sky using a Panasonic TZ3. Various angles and abstract compositions, contrasting the white wheel against the blue sky. Includes backlit shots and details at maximum zoom.

☑ Append to existing Description

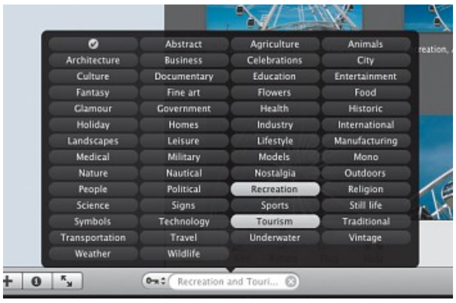
»QUICK TIP

You can add a description for longer explanations, and using **Batch Change** (⌘+⇧+B) you can apply the same description to many photos. iPhoto's **Search** field and Smart Albums work with description text too, so you're not confined to a rigid list of keywords.


✓ All
Date
Keyword
Rating
dit
Rotate
Flag
Hide

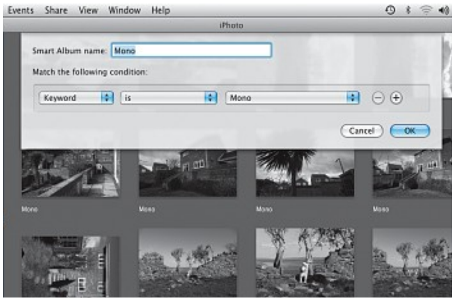
06 Keyword searches

The **Search** field at the bottom of the **iPhoto** window can carry out freeform text searches using keywords (and descriptions), but this assumes you know what keywords you've used. You can be more specific by choosing **Keyword** from the **Search** field pop-up.


✓
Abstract
Agriculture
Animals
Architecture
Business
Celebrations
City
Culture
Documentary
Education
Entertainment
Fantasy
Fine art
Flowers
Food
Glamour
Government
Health
Historic
Holiday
Homes
Industry
International
Landscapes
Leisure
Lifestyle
Manufacturing
Medical
Military
Models
Mono
Nature
Nautical
Nostalgia
Outdoors
People
Political
Recreation
Religion
Science
Signs
Sports
Still life
Symbols
Technology
Tourism
Traditional
Transportation
Travel
Underwater
Vintage
Weather
Wildlife
Recreation and Touri...

07 Choosing keywords

iPhoto will now list all the keywords used in the library, and if you click on one it displays all the images with that keyword, as you'd expect. If you click on two, though, it displays only those images with both, so you can use this to carry out quite specific searches.

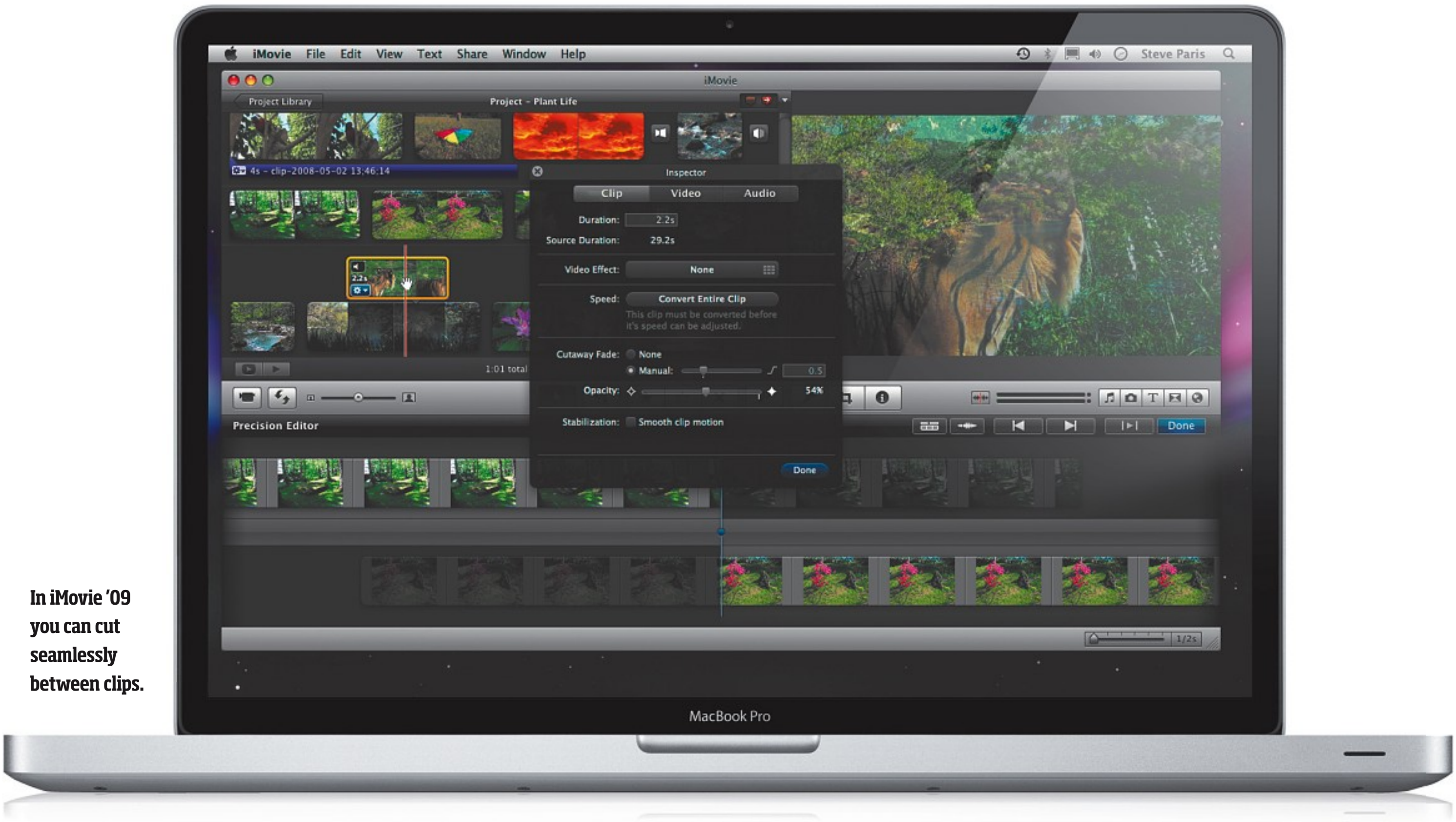

Events
Share
View
Window
Help
iPhoto
Smart Album name: Mono

Match the following condition:

Keyword is Mono
Cancel
OK
Mono
Mono
Mono
Mono

08 Using a Smart Album

If you find yourself carrying out the same keyword searches often, it's worth setting up a Smart Album instead. Here's one which displays images with the keyword **Mono**. You can make these Smart Albums as specific as you like, of course, by adding more criteria. ●



Duration: 2.2s
Source Duration: 29.2s
Video Effect: None
Speed: Convert Entire Clip
This clip must be converted before it's speed can be adjusted.
Cutaway Fade: None
Manual: 0.5
Opacity: 54%
Stabilization: Smooth clip motion

In iMovie '09 you can cut seamlessly between clips.

Create cutaways in iMovie

Cut to another video while keeping the same audio, all within one movie!

>>KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Apple iMovie '09 (£69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**), footage stored in iMovie Events or iPhoto, a project in progress.

The previous version of *iMovie* ('08) was redesigned from the ground up to make it easier for a total novice to understand and actually use a video-editing application. Focusing on ease of use created a completely different program that actually made sense to the market Apple was targeting: those who don't want to spend too much time editing, just keep the best bits, add a few transitions and titles and upload the result to the web.

Stripped down iMovie

Unfortunately, original *iMovie* fans loved the more complex aspects of the previous version, but didn't like the fact that their once powerful tool had been crippled to cater for people who knew less than they did. The problem was that *iMovie* was never meant for semi-professional users, and in redesigning it Apple obviously angered the people who used it the most.

The release of *iMovie '09* is Apple's attempt to cater for both audiences. It still looks the same as the version released a year and a half ago, but it now features more advanced tools, such as image stabilisation, which wasn't even available in *iMovie 6 HD* (the last version prior to the redesign).

> *"iMovie '09 can cut from one clip to another, while keeping the audio from the first clip"*

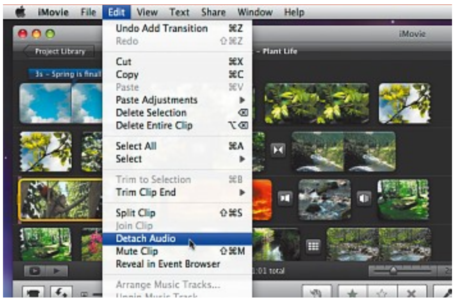
Another major change includes the new editing tools, such as the Precision Editor (we covered this in issue 207's *iMovie* tutorial). This offers you a chance to be as meticulous as you wish to be when cutting a movie. But *iMovie '09* goes a little further than this: for instance, it provides multiple methods of cutting from one clip to another, while keeping the audio from the first clip running over the second.

Cutting to another clip

One way is by using the Precision Editor, but since we've already covered it in a previous tutorial, we'll focus this time on the remaining two options, including a first for *iMovie*: the ability to work with multiple layers of video.

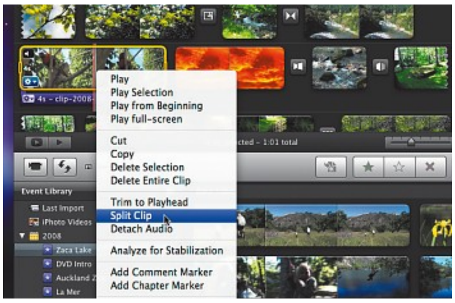
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Placing audio over multiple video files


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Undo Add Transition
Redo
Cut
Copy
Paste
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select All
Select
Trim to Selection
Trim Clip End
Split Clip
Join Clip
Detach Audio
Mute Clip
Reveal in Event Browser
Arrange Music Tracks...

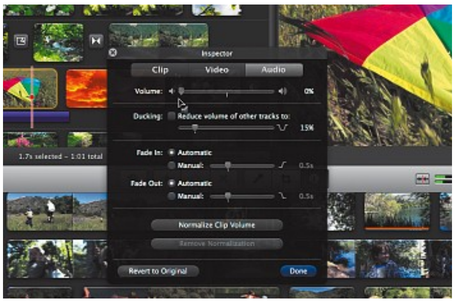
01 Independent sound

One way to cut to another shot while still being able to hear the previous clip's audio is to extract the sound from the video. Click on a clip in your project to select it, then go to Edit > Detach Audio to remove the clip's sound and place it beneath it in a purple banner.


Play
Play Selection
Play from Beginning
Play full-screen
Cut
Copy
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Trim to Playhead
Split Clip
Detach Audio
Analyze for Stabilization
Add Comment Marker
Add Chapter Marker

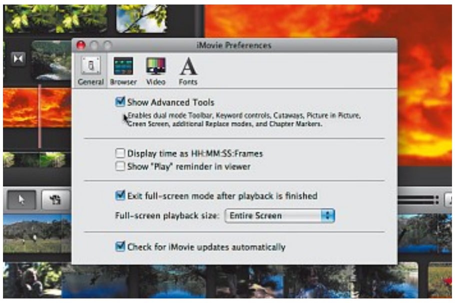
02 Splitting menu

ctrl-click where you'd like to cut the existing video clip to bring up a contextual menu. Select **Split Clip** to slice your footage in two. You can then delete the portion to the right and add another video in its place. We now need to do something about the last clip's audio.


Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio
Volume:
0%
Ducking:
Reduce volume of other tracks to:
15%
Fade In:
Automatic
Manual:
Fade Out:
Automatic
Manual:
Normalize Clip Volume
Remove Normalization
Revert to Original
Done

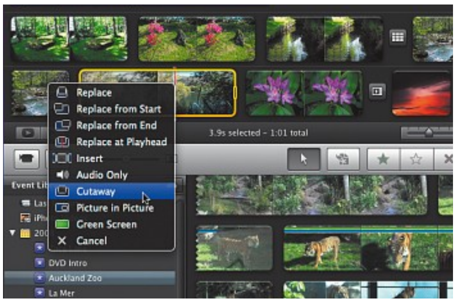
03 Volume control

Double-click on it to reveal the **Inspector** window. Go to the **Audio** tab and drag the **Volume** slider all the way to the left to mute it. Should you wish to fine-tune the cut, double-click on the gap between both clips to reveal the **Precision Editor**.


iMovie Preferences
General
Browser
Video
Fonts
Show Advanced Tools
Enables dual mode Toolbar, Keyword controls, Cutaways, Picture in Picture, Green Screen, additional Replace modes, and Chapter Markers.
Display time as HH:MM:SS:Frames
Show "Play" reminder in viewer
Exit full-screen mode after playback is finished
Full-screen playback size:
Entire Screen
Check for iMovie updates automatically

04 Revealing more features

There is another way to do cutaways, but it isn't enabled by default. To trigger it, go to iMovie > Preferences and in the **General** tab, make sure the **Show Advanced Tools** box is ticked. This will reveal a series of more advanced options.

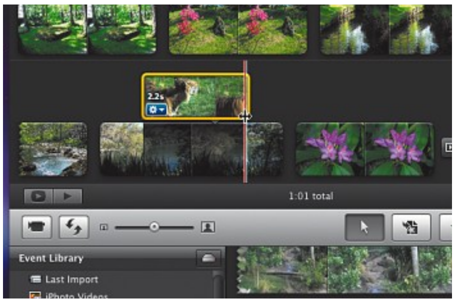

Replace
Replace from Start
Replace from End
Replace at Playhead
Insert
Audio Only
Cutaway
Picture in Picture
Green Screen
Cancel
3.9s selected - 1:01 total
Event Library
DVD Intro
Auckland Zoo
La Mer

05 Cutaway option

Find another clip in your project which you'd like to work on. Drag some footage from your **Event** library directly onto it and release the mouse button. As you do so, a menu appears offering you multiple commands. Click on **Cutaway**.

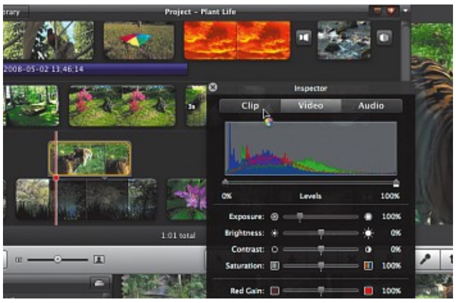
QUICK TIP

Apple is working hard to improve iMovie and has recently released version 8.0.1. Most of the changes are to improve stability, but a new keyboard shortcut also appeared making editing much easier: all you have to do now to split a clip is to mouse over to the exact location and use the ⌘ + ⇧ + S shortcut.


2.2s
1:01 total
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos

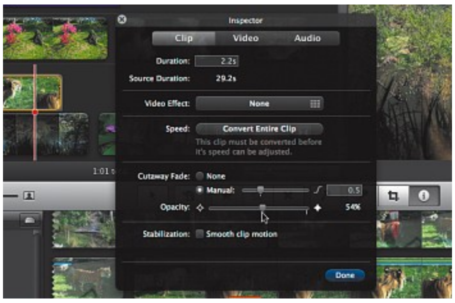
06 On top of the other

The newly added clip sits above the existing one. You can drag it around to a new location or even resize it by clicking and dragging its edges left or right, giving you a lot of control without having to resort to the **Precision Editor**.


Project - Plant Life
2008-05-02 13:46:14
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio
Levels
0%
100%
Exposure:
Brightness:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Red Gain:
1:01 total

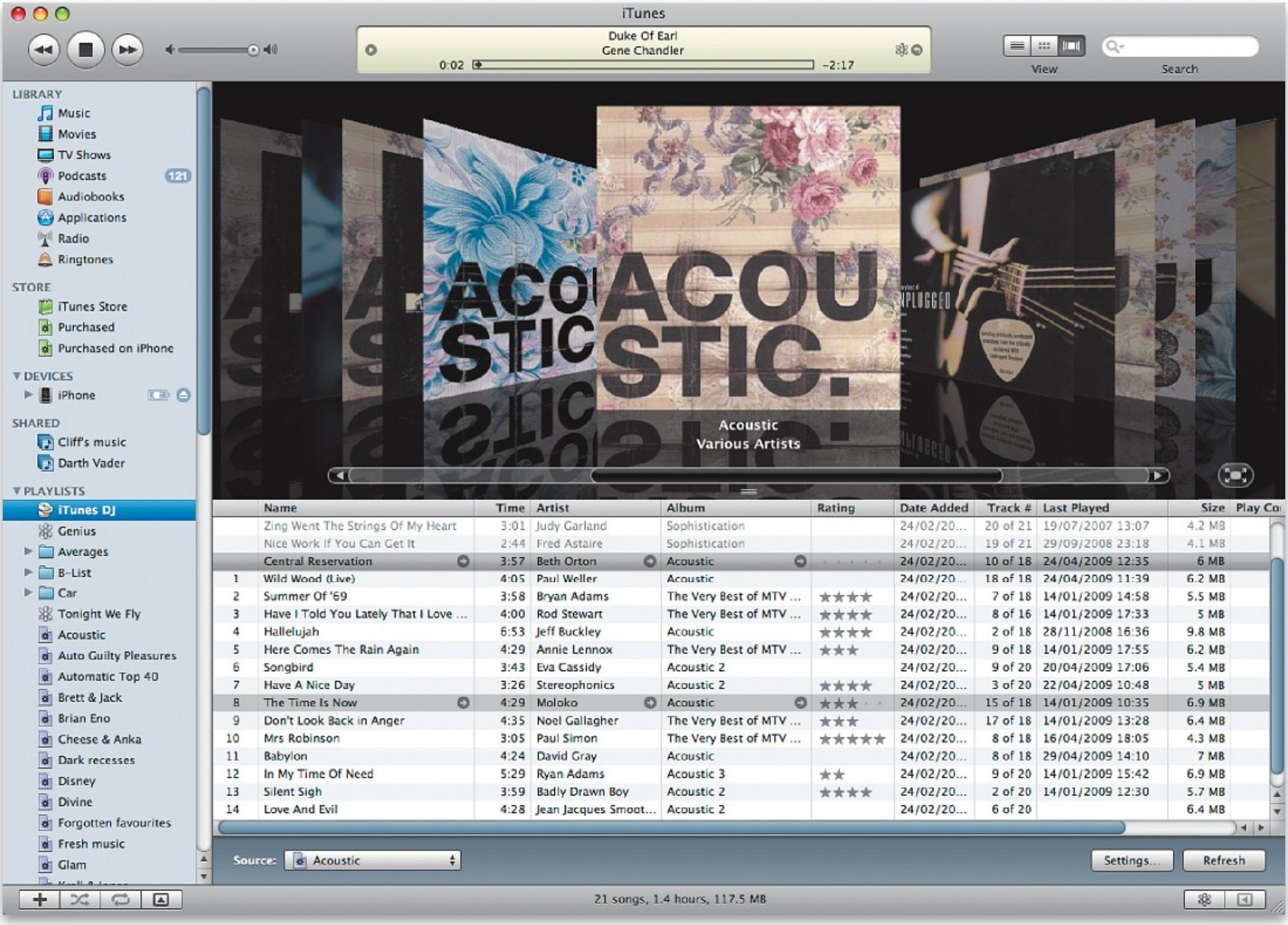
07 Inspecting the cutaway

As in Step 3, that clip's audio is still playing and if you need to remove it, double-click on it to bring up the **Inspector** window and alter the **Audio** tab's **Volume** slider. While you're there, you'll notice that the **Clip** tab has a few additional options.


Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio
Duration:
2.2s
Source Duration:
29.2s
Video Effect:
None
Speed:
Convert Entire Clip
This clip must be converted before its speed can be adjusted.
Cutaway Fade:
None
Manual:
0.5
Opacity:
54%
Stabilization:
Smooth clip motion
Done

08 Fading transparency

You can, for instance, add a cross-dissolve transition to the top clip by clicking on the **Cutaway Fade**'s **Manual** button and using the slider to choose the duration of the effect. Alternatively, make that clip semi-transparent by experimenting with the **Opacity** slider. ●


iTunes
Duke Of Earl
Gene Chandler
0:02
-2:17
View
Search
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
121
Audiobooks
Applications
Radio
Ringtones
STORE
iTunes Store
Purchased
Purchased on iPhone
DEVICES
iPhone
SHARED
Cliff's music
Darth Vader
PLAYLISTS
iTunes DJ
Genius
Averages
B-List
Car
Tonight We Fly
Acoustic
Auto Guilty Pleasures
Automatic Top 40
Brett & Jack
Brian Eno
Cheese & Anka
Dark recesses
Disney
Divine
Forgotten favourites
Fresh music
Glam
Acoustic
Various Artists

	Name	Time	Artist	Album	Rating	Date Added	Track #	Last Played	Size	Play Co
	Zing Went The Strings Of My Heart	3:01	Judy Garland	Sophistication		24/02/20...	20 of 21	19/07/2007 13:07	4.2 MB	
	Nice Work If You Can Get It	2:44	Fred Astaire	Sophistication		24/02/20...	19 of 21	29/09/2008 23:18	4.1 MB	
	Central Reservation	3:57	Beth Orton	Acoustic		24/02/20...	10 of 18	24/04/2009 12:35	6 MB	
1	Wild Wood (Live)	4:05	Paul Weller	Acoustic		24/02/20...	18 of 18	24/04/2009 11:39	6.2 MB	
2	Summer Of '69	3:58	Bryan Adams	The Very Best of MTV ...	★★★★	24/02/20...	7 of 18	14/01/2009 14:58	5.5 MB	
3	Have I Told You Lately That I Love ...	4:00	Rod Stewart	The Very Best of MTV ...	★★★★	24/02/20...	8 of 16	14/01/2009 17:33	5 MB	
4	Hallelujah	6:53	Jeff Buckley	Acoustic	★★★★	24/02/20...	2 of 18	28/11/2008 16:36	9.8 MB	
5	Here Comes The Rain Again	4:29	Annie Lennox	The Very Best of MTV ...	★★★	24/02/20...	9 of 18	14/01/2009 17:55	6.2 MB	
6	Songbird	3:43	Eva Cassidy	Acoustic 2		24/02/20...	9 of 20	20/04/2009 17:06	5.4 MB	
7	Have A Nice Day	3:26	Stereophonics	Acoustic 2	★★★★	24/02/20...	3 of 20	22/04/2009 10:48	5 MB	
8	The Time Is Now	4:29	Moloko	Acoustic	★★★	24/02/20...	15 of 18	14/01/2009 10:35	6.9 MB	
9	Don't Look Back in Anger	4:35	Noel Gallagher	The Very Best of MTV ...	★★★	24/02/20...	17 of 18	14/01/2009 13:28	6.4 MB	
10	Mrs Robinson	3:05	Paul Simon	The Very Best of MTV ...	★★★★★	24/02/20...	8 of 18	16/04/2009 18:05	4.3 MB	
11	Babylon	4:24	David Gray	Acoustic		24/02/20...	8 of 18	29/04/2009 14:10	7 MB	
12	In My Time Of Need	5:29	Ryan Adams	Acoustic 3	★★	24/02/20...	9 of 20	14/01/2009 15:42	6.9 MB	
13	Silent Sigh	3:59	Badly Drawn Boy	Acoustic 2	★★★★	24/02/20...	2 of 20	14/01/2009 12:30	5.7 MB	
14	Love And Evil	4:28	Jean Jacques Smoot...	Acoustic 2		24/02/20...	6 of 20		6.4 MB	

Source: Acoustic

Settings...
Refresh

21 songs, 1.4 hours, 117.5 MB

iTunes is the ideal solution to organise playlists for parties.

Create DJ playlists

Use the iTunes DJ option to quickly create random playlists for your parties

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac with OS X, Apple iTunes v.8.1.1 (£FREE, **www.apple.com/itunes**)

The ability to 'shuffle' songs on your iPod, or when listening to *iTunes* on your Mac, has changed the way we listen to music. In the good old days of CDs and vinyl you could only really listen to one album at a time, unless you spent hours creating your own mix tapes or compilation CDs. Now, though, you can just hit the **Shuffle** button and randomly skip through your entire music collection, coming across song combinations that you might not normally think about, or old songs you haven't heard for ages.

However, random shuffling has disadvantages. If you're out jogging in the park then you'll want to listen to something catchy and up-tempo, rather than wailing ballads. You can, of course, create playlists for specific occasions or particular types of music, but this takes time and you can get bored listening to the same playlists over again.

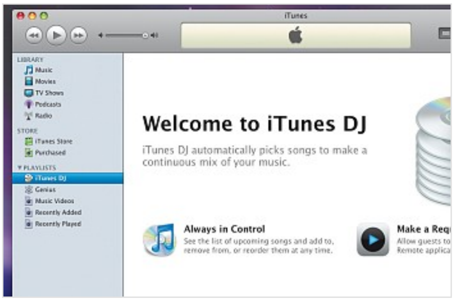
Fortunately, *iTunes* does provide a number of options that allow you to refine the shuffling process, so you can still get the spontaneity of random selection, while also being able to chuck out songs that don't suit the mood of the moment. There's been a feature called **Party Shuffle** in *iTunes* for some time, but the latest version refines that feature, and it's now called **iTunes DJ**.

> *"The ability to shuffle songs in iTunes has changed the way we listen to music"*

Rather than just randomly shuffling from one song to the next, **iTunes DJ** selects a set of songs and displays them for you as a playlist, so that you can quickly delete any songs that you don't want to listen to. You can even create interactive playlists by allowing other people to vote for songs to be included in the DJ playlist by using their iPhone or iPod touch.

Cliff Joseph

HOW TO / Customise playlists with iTunes DJ



Welcome to iTunes DJ

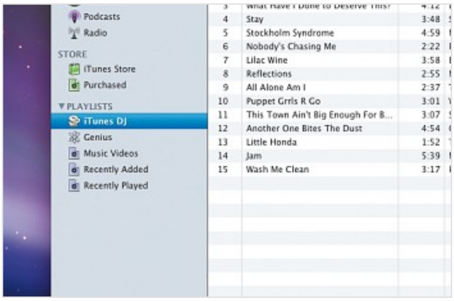
iTunes DJ automatically picks songs to make a continuous mix of your music.

Always in Control
See the list of upcoming songs and add to, remove from, or reorder them at any time.

Make a Req
Allow guests to
Remote applica

01 Turn it on

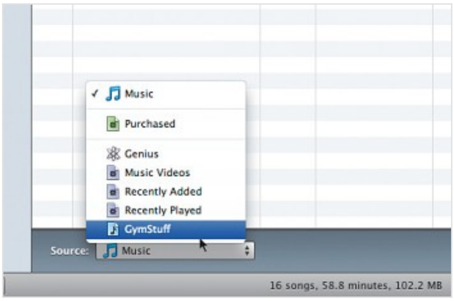
The **iTunes DJ** option is found under **Playlists** in the **Source** panel on the left-hand side of the **iTunes** window. If you can't see it straight away then you may need to open *iTunes'* main **Preferences** panel and make sure that the **iTunes DJ** option has been turned on.



4	Stay	3:48
5	Stockholm Syndrome	4:59
6	Nobody's Chasing Me	2:22
7	Lilac Wine	3:58
8	Reflections	2:55
9	All Alone Am I	2:37
10	Puppet Grrls R Go	3:01
11	This Town Ain't Big Enough For B...	3:07
12	Another One Bites The Dust	4:54
13	Little Honda	1:52
14	Jam	5:39
15	Wash Me Clean	3:17

02 On the list

iTunes automatically picks a group of songs at random and adds them to the DJ playlist for you. You can delete individual songs that you don't like, or you can just hit the **Refresh** button down in the right-hand corner to start over and generate a new playlist.

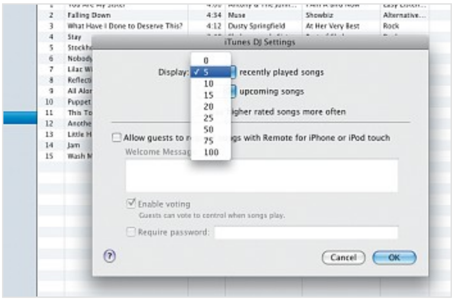


Source: Music

16 songs, 58.8 minutes, 102.2 MB

03 In control

The **Source** sub-menu at the bottom of this window gives you a little more control over the way that songs are chosen for the DJ playlist. By default, songs are chosen from your entire music library, but you can also specify that songs are chosen from a specific playlist.



2	Falling Down	4:34	Muse	Showbiz	Alternative...
3	What Have I Done to Deserve This?	4:12	Dusty Springfield	At Her Very Best	Rock

iTunes DJ Settings

Display: ✓ 5 recently played songs

upcoming songs
higher rated songs more often

☐ Allow guests to r... ...gs with Remote for iPhone or iPod touch

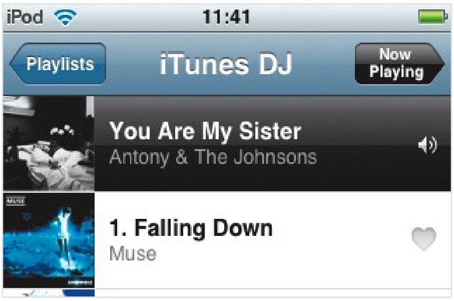
Welcome Messag...

☑ Enable voting
Guests can vote to control when songs play.

☐ Require password:

04 Playlist options

Click the **Settings** button in the bottom-right corner to view additional options. You can adjust the number of songs in the playlist, and also tell *iTunes* to keep displaying recently-played songs in case you want to play them again or add them to a separate playlist.

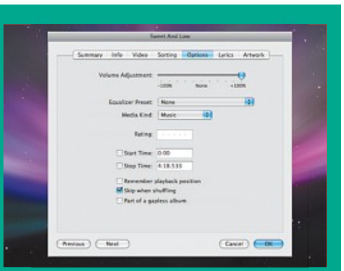


You Are My Sister
Antony & The Johnsons

1. Falling Down
Muse

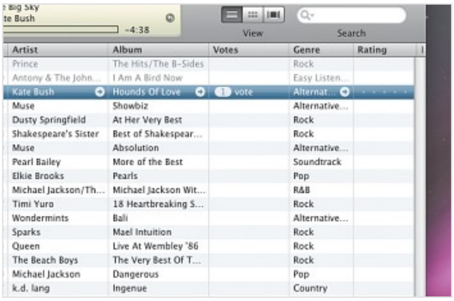
05 Remote control

If you've got an iPhone or iPod touch you can use Apple's free *Remote* program to control your DJ playlist (as well as other *iTunes* features). There's also a **Request a Song** button that will appear on the iPhone's screen, which allows you to add songs to the playlist.



QUICK TIP

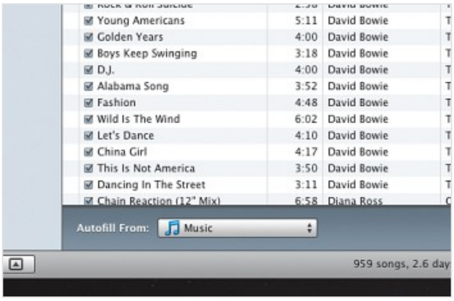
You can add any song in iTunes to your DJ playlist by ctrl-clicking on the song and selecting one of the **iTunes DJ** options in the menu. You can also go to Get Info > Options to tell iTunes to ignore that song when shuffling your music.



Artist	Album	Votes	Genre	Rating
Prince	The Hits/The B-Sides		Rock	
Antony & The John...	I Am A Bird Now		Easy Listen...	
Kate Bush	Hounds Of Love	1 vote	Alternat...	
Muse	Showbiz		Alternative...	
Dusty Springfield	At Her Very Best		Rock	
Shakespeare's Sister	Best of Shakespear...		Rock	
Muse	Absolution		Alternative...	
Pearl Bailey	More of the Best		Soundtrack	
Elkie Brooks	Pearls		Pop	
Michael Jackson/Th...	Michael Jackson Wit...		R&B	
Timi Yuro	18 Heartbreaking S...		Rock	
Wondermints	Bali		Alternative...	
Sparks	Mael Intuition		Rock	
Queen	Live At Wembley '86		Rock	
The Beach Boys	The Very Best Of T...		Rock	
Michael Jackson	Dangerous		Pop	
k.d. lang	Ingenue		Country	

06 Vox pop

When you use the *Remote* app to request a song, it shows up in your *iTunes* playlist with a vote counter next to the song's name. You can also allow other iPhone or iPod touch users to vote for songs, and the song that gets the most votes will get played first.



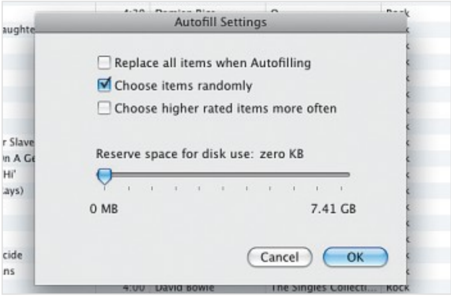
☑ Young Americans	5:11	David Bowie
☑ Golden Years	4:00	David Bowie
☑ Boys Keep Swinging	3:18	David Bowie
☑ D.J.	4:00	David Bowie
☑ Alabama Song	3:52	David Bowie
☑ Fashion	4:48	David Bowie
☑ Wild Is The Wind	6:02	David Bowie
☑ Let's Dance	4:10	David Bowie
☑ China Girl	4:17	David Bowie
☑ This Is Not America	3:50	David Bowie
☑ Dancing In The Street	3:11	David Bowie
☑ Chain Reaction (12" Mix)	6:58	Diana Ross

Autofill From: Music

959 songs, 2.6 day

07 Auto-Fill

Another way to quickly fill your iPod with a random set of songs is to use the new **Auto-Fill** option (which was originally only available for the iPod shuffle). To activate this feature, just plug in your iPod and select its **Music** library in the **Source** panel.



Autofill Settings

☐ Replace all items when Autofilling
☑ Choose items randomly
☐ Choose higher rated items more often

Reserve space for disk use: zero KB

0 MB 7.41 GB

08 Random music

You can tell the **Auto-Fill** feature to choose music from your entire music library or just specific playlists. Click the **Settings** button to adjust other options, such as telling *iTunes* to favour songs with a higher rating, or to set aside some space for disk storage. ●

Zooloretto
The award winning board game...
...now available for your iPhone/iPod touch
Available on the iPhone
App Store
The Elephant
START
Shop
Options
Manual
7400
ErWin
35
?
SpinBottle GAMES
www.SpinBottleGames.com
chillingo
AS
ABACUSSPIELE

The state animal of multiple African countries and the largest land animal in the world. They can live up to 70 years and weigh the same as 75 grown men.

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NASA capture images of deep sky objects using the Hubble Space Telescope but your Mac can help too.

Stargaze with your Mac

Use your Mac to explore the universe and bring back some snapshots!

You don't need to be a scientist to enjoy amateur astronomy. All you need are a pair of binoculars and clear skies. However, your Mac can also help you explore the night sky in a variety of interesting ways, from helping you navigate around the stars to taking photographs of the planets.

Amateur astronomy divides the observable universe into solar system targets, stars and deep sky targets. Solar system targets include the Moon and planets, objects that are clearly visible even from light-polluted observing sites. As such, they're popular targets for people living in cities. The Moon looks great through binoculars and telescopes, and the latter make it easier to zoom in on details such as craters and mountains. The planets look best through a telescope as binoculars do not have enough magnification to show detail.

Double stars

Stars come in lots of different colours, including silvery-white, garnet red and turquoise blue. Many stars that seem singular to the naked eye are actually double stars, and these are fun to observe. Colour contrasts between the two stars can be really striking, while others are so 'tight' that splitting them is almost a challenge. Most stars can be observed well, even from urban locations, and many double and coloured stars can be observed through binoculars.

"Many stars that seem singular are actually double stars, and these are fun to observe"

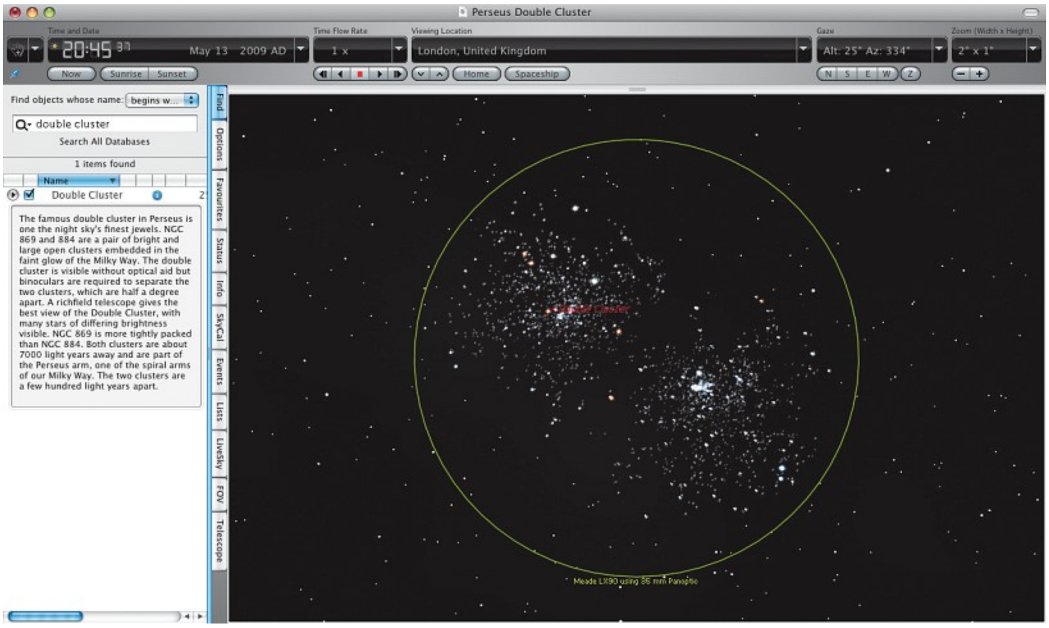
The deep sky objects are star clusters, nebulae and galaxies. For good views, the surburban skies will need to be reasonably dark, and the bigger the telescope, the better you'll see. They're often very interesting and beautiful though, and most hobbyists spend most of their time observing them.

»ON THE DISC

Find Sky Chart 3 and Stellarium 0.10.2 on this issue's disc

»QUICK TIP

Danger! Never use a telescope or binoculars to look at the Sun; this will cause irreversible damage to your eyesight.



Find objects whose name: begins w...

double cluster

Search All Databases

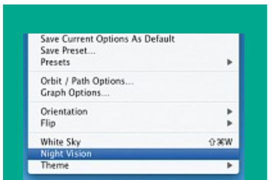
1 items found

Name

☑ Double Cluster

The famous double cluster in Perseus is one the night sky's finest jewels. NGC 869 and 884 are a pair of bright and large open clusters embedded in the faint glow of the Milky Way. The double cluster is visible without optical aid but binoculars are required to separate the two clusters, which are half a degree apart. A richfield telescope gives the best view of the Double Cluster, with many stars of differing brightness visible. NGC 869 is more tightly packed than NGC 884. Both clusters are about 7000 light years away and are part of the Perseus arm, one of the spiral arms of our Milky Way. The two clusters are a few hundred light years apart.

The basic Starry Night interface is consistent across all versions. Most key functions are in the menu bar or contextual menus.



>> QUICK TIP

When using Starry Night at the telescope, switch to **Night Vision** mode (under the **Options** menu). This switches to a palette that won't ruin your night vision.

But how do you find these celestial sights? Your Mac can run planetarium programs that create sky simulations tailored to any location and at any given time. The key differences between the programs available are the catalogues of deep sky objects they come with. All the ones discussed here come with, at minimum, the Messier and NGC catalogues of 110 and 7840 deep sky objects respectively. Together these will provide a core of material for years of observing.

Stellarium (www.shatters.net/celestia) is a free planetarium program with a feature set somewhat limited by comparison to most shareware and commercial applications, but it looks good, is easy to use, and the price can't be quibbled with. For the more ambitious beginner, *SkyChart* (www.ap-i.net/skychart) is the freeware program of choice (find *SkyChart 3* on this issue's disc). Originally designed for the PC, it's popular among PC-using amateur astronomers. Despite its Windows rather than Macintosh interface, it's a robust program with lots of deep sky databases beyond the core ones mentioned, and produces useful schematic rather than realistic maps.

Among the shareware applications, the showstopper is *Equinox* (www.microprojects.ca). For just $59 (£40) it offers features usually only seen in pro-level commercial applications such as computerised telescope control. It also has support for both high-end astrophotography CCD cameras and consumer-grade Canon digital SLRs. It can communicate with the useful observing/logging program *Astroplanner* ($45 (£31), www.ilangainc.com). This tool is used to organise observing sessions beforehand, for example, when objects are best placed in the sky. Unlike the cross-platform freeware applications mentioned so far, both these programs were designed specifically for the Mac, and are a delight to use.

> *"A cool feature is the option to label surface features, such as craters, on the Moon"*

Starry, starry night

The most popular commercial planetarium program on the Mac is *Starry Night* (www.starrynight.com). It's available in several versions, to order from Amazon. The most basic version of the program is *Starry Night Enthusiast 6* (£50). Although its only catalogues are the Messier and NGC ones, it shares lots of features with its higher-priced siblings. These include a night-vision mode and settings for replicating light pollution so that the simulation reflects your real-world situation.

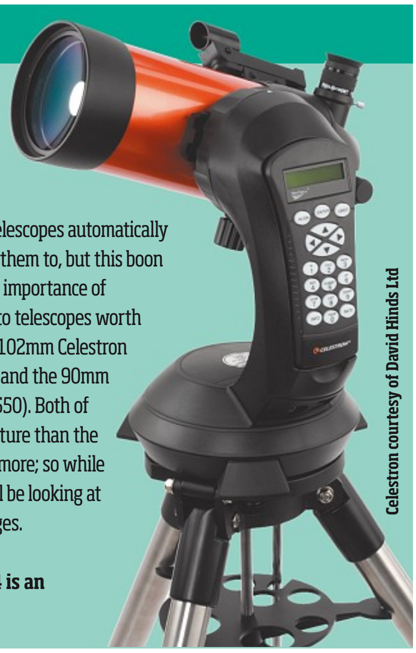
Starry Night Pro 6 (£90) and *Starry Night Pro Plus 5* (£132) have many more catalogues and both would keep any astronomer busy for a lifetime. They also offer numerous features that make the hobby easier and varied, including astronomical event alerts and planners for scheduling your observations. A particularly cool feature is the option to label surface features, such as craters, on the Moon. Both programs can control computerised telescopes using either a serial cable or

>> **HOW TO** / Buy a telescope

Two things make or break a telescope; aperture and stability. Aperture is to telescopes what processor speed is to a computer - the more the better! The greater the aperture, the more light a telescope gathers, and that means brighter images and higher magnifications. Stability determines how user-friendly the telescope is; the more stable the telescope, the easier it is to point at objects and the less jittery the image at the eyepiece.

Avoid cheap telescopes sold in camera shops and department stores. Without exception, these are toys rather than genuinely useful telescopes. If you're on a budget, the best telescope would be something like the 150mm Dobsonian from Orion Optics UK (£165). This telescope is very stable and its generous aperture will deliver great views of the stars and planets. It's easy to set up, and using a planetarium program as your guide, you'll soon be star-hopping to all sorts of interesting sights.

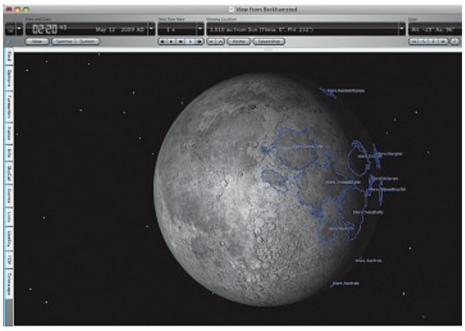
Computerised "go-to" telescopes automatically point at whatever you tell them to, but this boon comes at a price. Given the importance of aperture, the smallest go-to telescopes worth buying are things like the 102mm Celestron NexStar 4 (at about £400) and the 90mm Meade ETX 90 (at about £550). Both of these have much less aperture than the Dobsonian, yet cost much more; so while they're easier to use, you'll be looking at dimmer, less-detailed images.



The Celestron NexStar 4 is an absolute breeze to use.

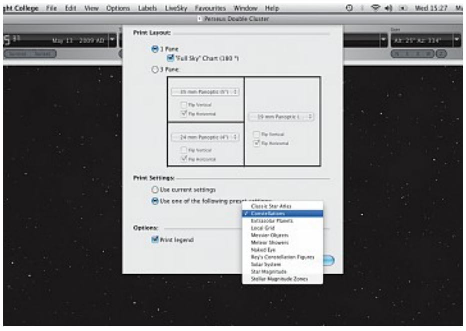
Celestron courtesy of David Hinds Ltd

HOW TO / Get started with Starry Night Pro



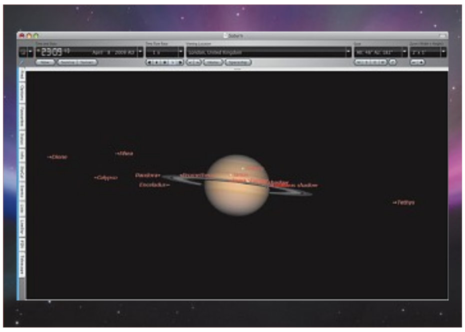
01 Lunar geography lessons

The Moon is an obvious target for any budding astronomer. Use *Starry Night Pro* or better to identify surface features such as craters and seas; ctrl-click the Moon and select **Markers** and **Outlines** from the pop-up menu.



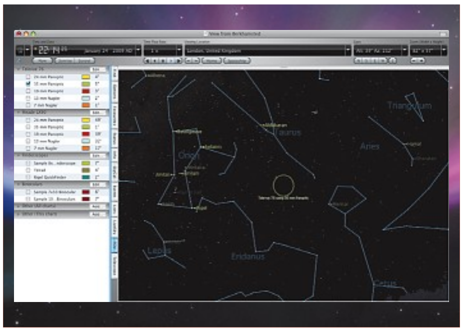
02 Print star maps

Starhopping is the technique used to locate deep sky objects by going from one star to the next, using each as a guidepost. Use *Starry Night* alongside your telescope, or print off maps that you can use away from your computer.



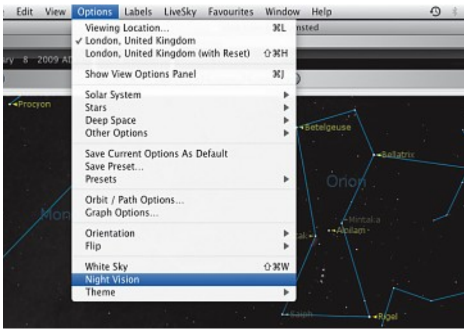
03 Visit Saturn's moons

Saturn will be a good target for the next few months because its rings are edging onto us, something that happens once in every 30 years. Because less light is reflected from the rings, the fainter moons of Saturn are more obvious.



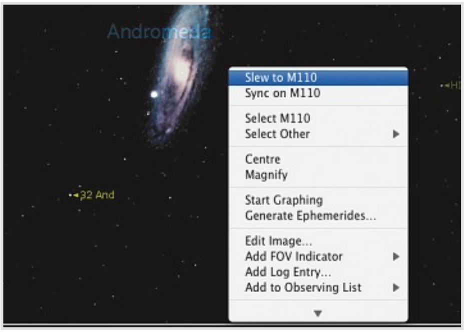
04 An eyepiece view

Configure field of view indicators that match your telescope and eyepiece collection. Field of view indicators make it easier to relate what you see on the screen to what's visible through the telescope.


Edit
View
Options
Labels
LiveSky
Favourites
Window
Help
Viewing Location... ⌘L
✓ London, United Kingdom
London, United Kingdom (with Reset) ⇧⌘H
Show View Options Panel ⌘J
Solar System
Stars
Deep Space
Other Options
Save Current Options As Default
Save Preset...
Presets
Orbit / Path Options...
Graph Options...
Orientation
Flip
White Sky ⇧⌘W
Night Vision
Theme
Procyon
Betelgeuse
Bellatrix
Orion
Alnilam
Rigel

05 Night vision

It takes 20 minutes for your eyes to adapt to the dark, so you will see more detail through a telescope. But night adaptation is lost when you look at bright light again! Use *Starry Night*'s **Night Vision** mode to dim the screen.


Andromeda
32 And
Slew to M110
Sync on M110
Select M110
Select Other
Centre
Magnify
Start Graphing
Generate Ephemerides...
Edit Image...
Add FOV Indicator
Add Log Entry...
Add to Observing List

06 Computer control

Starry Night can be used to control computerised telescopes including NexStar, ETX and LX200 series telescopes. ctrl-click a target in the simulation, and choose **Slew to [object name]** option from the menu that appears. ●

wirelessly via a Bluetooth adaptor. *Starry Night Pro Plus* has a few extra databases *Starry Night Pro* doesn't, but the main differences between the two are that *Starry Night Pro Plus* can control CCD astrophotography cameras and it comes with a selection of high-resolution photographs for creating sky simulations across a range of magnifications.

The *Starry Night* programs are also available in editions designed for use in classrooms, including the soon-to-be-released university-level *Starry Night College*, $400 (£274), equipped with features such as textbooks and built-in tutorials and exercises. Otherwise, these are all similar to *Starry Night Pro*.

Besides simply looking at things, many astronomers enjoying taking pictures as well. While there are high-end CCD cameras designed for the job, you can also use digital cameras and webcams as well.

Shooting the stars

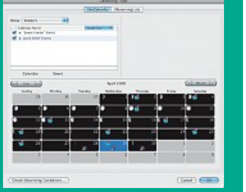
The critical issue in astrophotography is the fact the night sky is relatively dim, and the short exposure lengths offered by compact digital cameras in particular limits their usefulness. At best, these digital cameras can be used to take basic snapshots of the Moon. Simply hold the camera above the eyepiece, wait for the camera to come into focus, and you can then take your photo.

Digital SLRs are more versatile because they have variable exposure length settings. The camera lens is screwed off and an adaptor is used to connect it to the telescope's eyepiece holder. To avoid vibrations you'll want to operate the camera remotely if possible. Some digital SLRs come with software to control the camera from your Mac, but the planetarium program *Equinox* can control most models of Canon EOS and Rebel digital SLR as well, allowing the user to adjust not just the exposure length but also things like white balance and ISO value.

Webcams are cheap but effective tools for astrophotography. The exposure program is worked around

QUICK TIP

Ordinary 7x50 binoculars provide great views of the star fields in the Milky Way. Binoculars are also good for looking at showpiece deep sky objects including the Seven Sisters, the Double Cluster in Perseus, the Beehive in Cancer, and the Great Nebula in Orion.

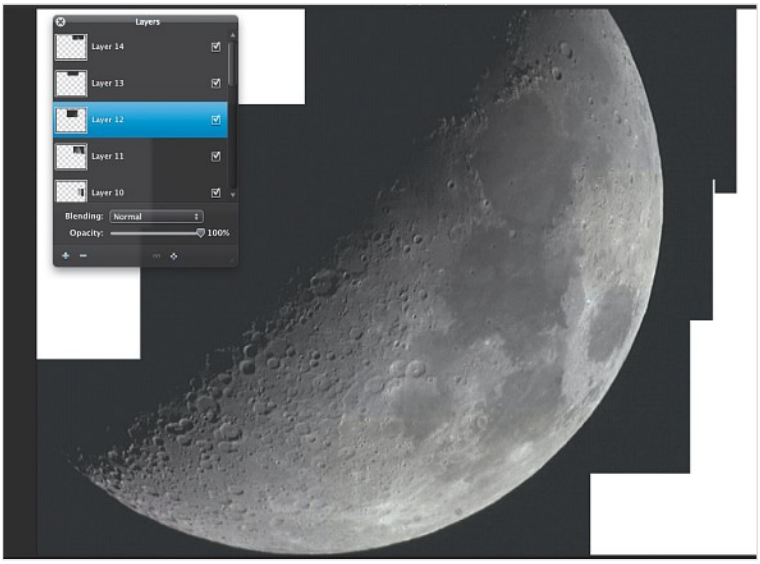


QUICK TIP

Use Starry Night to organise your observing session. Some targets will be easier to see earlier in the evening than others. Advance the simulation forward through 15-minute increments to see how things will change through the night.

by stitching together data from the frames in the movie to create a single, brighter image. Both USB and FireWire webcams can be used, but you will need a suitable adaptor, such as those made by Steven Mogg (**moggadapters.com**). With the built-in lens removed, the webcam is plugged into the telescope's eyepiece holder. While not suited to imaging deep sky objects, webcams have been used to take amazing pictures of the Moon and planets; see, for example, those taken by Mac-using astronomer Alan Friedman (**avertedimagination.com**).

The free image-capture program *macam* (**www.webcam-osx.sourceforge.net**) works well with a wide range of USB webcams. *Astro IIDC* (**www.outcastsoft.com**), $110 (£75) is high-end image capture program designed for FireWire webcams; it offers a variety of tools for optimising webcams when used for astrophotography, including exposure length adjustment. Focusing a telescope with a webcam attached takes practice, but once the image is sharp, you'll need to record 20-60 seconds of footage. To compensate for the Earth's rotation, you'll have to use a telescope that tracks the planet as it moves; otherwise, the planet will simply zip out of the field of view.



Pixelmator is useful for creating Moon mosaics thanks to layers.

> "Webcams have been used to take some amazing pictures of the Moon and planets"

Making movies

Movies are processed using image stacking software. *Lynkeos* is free (**lynkeos.sourceforge.net**) while Keith's *Image Stacker* costs $15 (£10) (**www.keithwiley.com**). Both are good, though their interfaces are very different so it's worth trying both out to see which one you like. If you've bought *Astro IIDC*, then you already have an image stacker and processor, and won't need these dedicated programs. Image stackers do three things: firstly they align all the frames to compensate for vibrations; then they reject frames that are too blurry to be of use; and finally they combine data from all the remaining frames to produce a single better image. Filters such as unsharp masking can then be used to sharpen details, while Gaussian blur filters are applied to remove unwanted artefacts.

Webcams can also be used to create high-resolution mosaics of the Moon. Instead of leaving the telescope pointing in one direction, you sweep the telescope slowly across the surface of the Moon until it's all been covered. To create the mosaic you'll need an image editor that allows you to use layers; at $59 (£40), *Pixelmator* (**www.pixelmator.com**) would be an excellent choice.

Begin by creating a large document around 2,000 pixels square. Paste frames from the movie into the document, each as a separate layer. Nudge each frame so it overlaps with its neighbours as closely as possible; temporarily reducing the opacity of overlying layers helps here. Once the mosaic is built, desaturate the image to reduce the file size and make the next step easier. Use the **brightness** and **contrast** sliders to adjust each frame until the seams between frames are invisible. Select the **sky** part of each frame using the **magic wand** tool, and reduce the brightness of this area to black. Finally, create a layer for the background, and fill this layer with black. The result should be a seamless mosaic of the Moon against a black sky.

Your Moon mosaic is now ready to be cropped, resized and exported to whatever image file format you prefer. Who needs the Hubble Space Telescope when you and your Mac can create stuff like this!

Neale Monks

HOW TO / Connect a webcam to a telescope

To use a webcam for astrophotography, you need to remove the existing lens and screw in a webcam adaptor. Mogg adaptors work well. Once in place, the webcam can be slotted into the telescope's eyepiece holder. Some hobbyists have found screwing a standard astronomical infrared filter into the adapted webcam improves the quality of their images.

At the other end of the USB or FireWire cable is your Mac laptop. The trickiest part of the process is focusing the telescope. Launch the image-capturing software, and, while looking at your Mac's screen, adjust the focuser until the image is sharp. This step is difficult because out-of-focus images can be so faint that you'll have no idea if the target is in the field of view. The Moon is a good target, because it's bright enough for a white blur to be apparent even when the telescope is out of focus. Once the image is sharp, start recording.

If the webcam is connected to a telescope without tracking, the target will drift out of view, limiting your movies to a few seconds. Telescopes with tracking motors, such as go-to telescopes, can record movies lasting minutes if need be.

macam
Status: Playing

Macam image capturing software is compatible with a range of webcams.

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Set categories in Numbers

Manage your data with ease with the new categories section in Numbers '09

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Apple Numbers '09 (£69, part of iWork '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

When it launched *Numbers*, Apple took a fresh look at spreadsheet design. Instead of having to work within a single, giant grid, you can create tables any size you like, and as many of them as you like, on a worksheet. This makes it easier to organise and interrelate different sets of data.

However, *Excel* still has many advantages, and its list handling is one of them. Using AutoFilters you can quickly filter out and subtotal different parts of your data, which is useful if you use a spreadsheet to handle invoices, for example, or as a cashbook for your accounts.

Numbers '08 didn't have an answer for this. Its list handling was basic by comparison, and while you could filter and sort your tables, it wasn't the same as *Excel*'s AutoFilters and it didn't re-calculate totals on-the-fly.

Numbers '09, though, comes with a new system of categories. It's not the same as *Excel*'s AutoFilters, but it can manage and analyse financial data in the same kind of way.

Categories are sub-headings for rows of data, and each category row contains cells which can be used to subtotal values within those rows. Our walkthrough shows you how categories can be used to organise a series of transactions by month (or week) and provide subtotals for these periods. You can choose a different criterion for categorising data, though, such as transaction type or payee. You can use two or more categories at the same time to produce a hierarchy of information where transactions are organised by month, then subdivided into type.

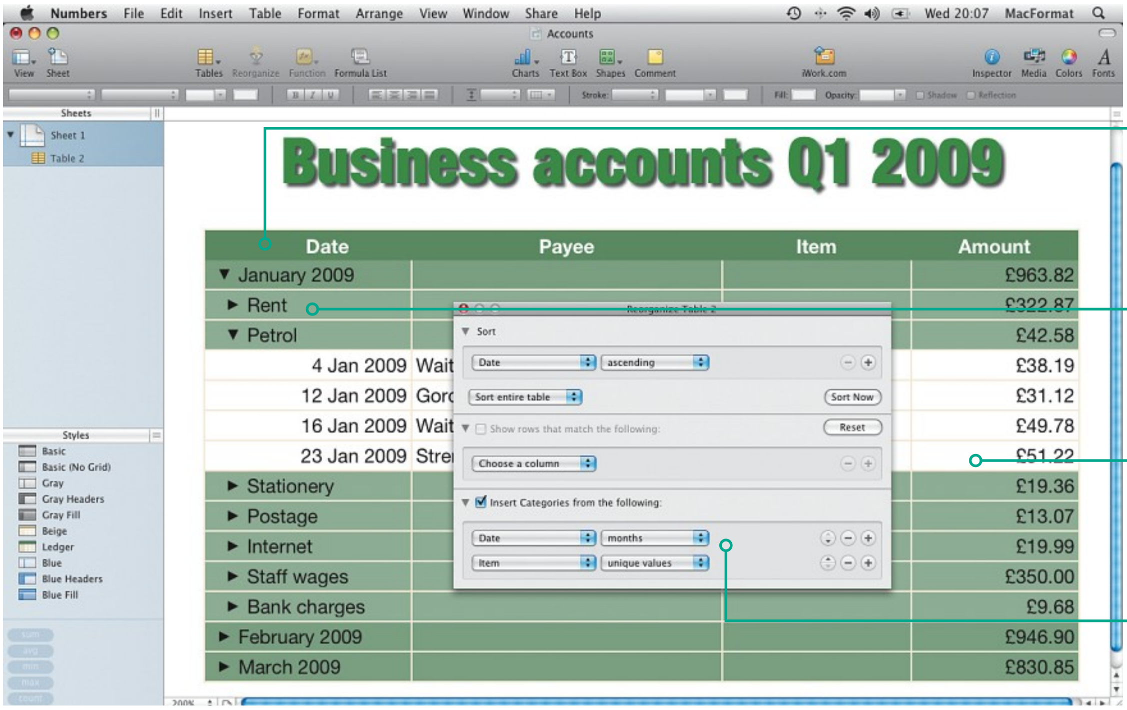
> *"Categories are sub-headings for rows of data, and each contains cells to subtotal values"*

Categories can be created manually or automatically. To keep it simple, we'll look at the automatic type here because it's the least complicated and most useful.

When you apply categories automatically, *Numbers* looks down the column of data you've specified to find rows which share the same values. It then groups these together and creates a category row with this value as its title. And if the column contains dates, it creates categories based on date ranges. Depending on the range of dates in the table, *Numbers* will split the data into days, weeks, months, quarters or years.

Rod Lawton

>> QUICK LOOK / Working with Numbers' categories



Business accounts Q1 2009

Date	Payee	Item	Amount
▼ January 2009			£963.82
► Rent			£322.87
▼ Petrol			£42.58
4 Jan 2009	Wait		£38.19
12 Jan 2009	Gorc		£31.12
16 Jan 2009	Wait		£49.78
23 Jan 2009	Stre		£51.22
► Stationery			£19.36
► Postage			£13.07
► Internet			£19.99
► Staff wages			£350.00
► Bank charges			£9.68
► February 2009			£946.90
► March 2009			£830.85

▼ Sort
Date – ascending
Sort entire table – Sort Now
▼ ☐ Show rows that match the following: – Reset
Choose a column
▼ ☑ Insert Categories from the following:
Date – months
Item – unique values

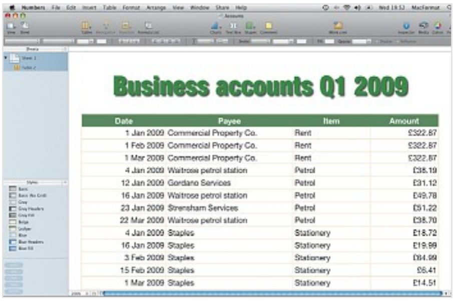
Divide by date
The **Date** category has been created automatically, which has grouped transactions into months.

Sort by type
The secondary category groups by type. Each can be expanded to show more.

Totals
Category rows can be set up to display totals for that category and more.

Reorganise data
Use the **Reorganize Table** to manage categories and decide their orders.

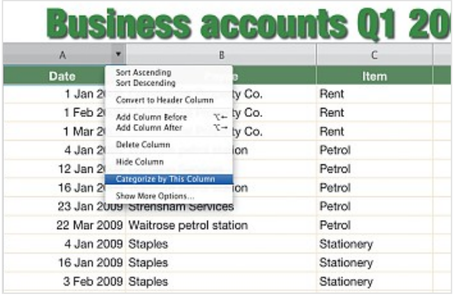
HOW TO / Manage categories in Numbers '09


Business accounts Q1 2009

Date	Payee	Item	Amount
1 Jan 2009	Commercial Property Co.	Rent	£322.87
1 Feb 2009	Commercial Property Co.	Rent	£322.87
1 Mar 2009	Commercial Property Co.	Rent	£322.87
4 Jan 2009	Waitrose petrol station	Petrol	£38.19
12 Jan 2009	Gordano Services	Petrol	£31.12
16 Jan 2009	Waitrose petrol station	Petrol	£49.78
23 Jan 2009	Strensham Services	Petrol	£51.22
22 Mar 2009	Waitrose petrol station	Petrol	£38.70
4 Jan 2009	Staples	Stationery	£18.72
16 Jan 2009	Staples	Stationery	£19.99
3 Feb 2009	Staples	Stationery	£64.99
15 Feb 2009	Staples	Stationery	£6.41
1 Mar 2009	Staples	Stationery	£14.51

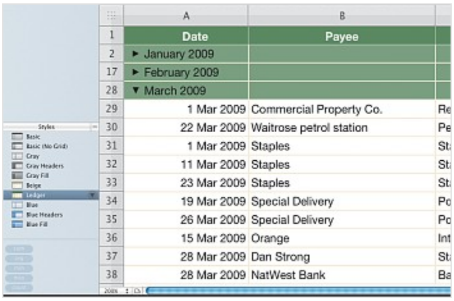
01 Uncategorised data

With *Numbers '08*, this is about as far as you can get with a list of financial transactions – a big slab of data that you can total up at the bottom and sort by date or transaction type, but that's about all. *Excel's* list tools and **AutoFilters** made it look rather silly.


Business accounts Q1 20
A
B
C
Date
Item
Sort Ascending
Sort Descending
Convert to Header Column
Add Column Before ⌥←
Add Column After ⌥→
Delete Column
Hide Column
Categorize by This Column
Show More Options...

02 Categorising columns

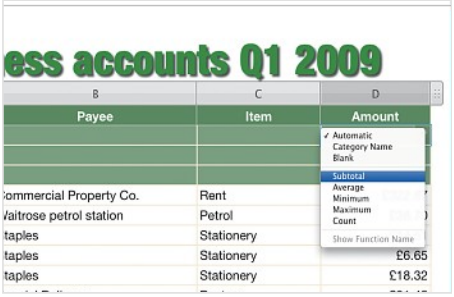
Open the pop-up menu next to a column header in *Numbers '09* and select **Categorize by This Column**. This groups rows of data which share similar or identical values. This column shows dates, so the **Categorize** command will group transactions by date.



	A	B
1	Date	Payee
2	▸ January 2009	
17	▸ February 2009	
28	▾ March 2009	
29	1 Mar 2009	Commercial Property Co.
30	22 Mar 2009	Waitrose petrol station
31	1 Mar 2009	Staples
32	11 Mar 2009	Staples
33	23 Mar 2009	Staples
34	19 Mar 2009	Special Delivery
35	26 Mar 2009	Special Delivery
36	15 Mar 2009	Orange
37	28 Mar 2009	Dan Strong
38	28 Mar 2009	NatWest Bank

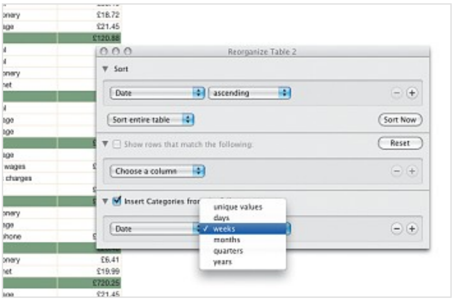
03 Category rows

This is the result. *Numbers* has grouped our transactions by month, and each is headed up by a new category row. What's more, the contents of these can be collapsed or expanded using the arrow buttons. Here, January and February are collapsed, but March is expanded.


ess accounts Q1 2009
B
C
D
Payee
Item
Amount
✓ Automatic
Category Name
Blank
Subtotal
Average
Minimum
Maximum
Count
Show Function Name
£6.65
£18.32

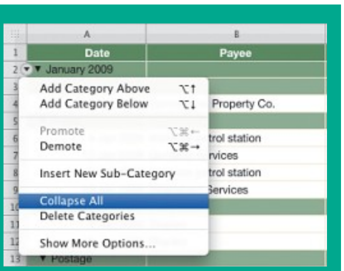
04 Adding subtotals

These category rows can be used to display calculations. To do this, click on a cell in one of these rows and open its pop-up menu. Here, we've clicked on the **Amount** cell and chosen **Subtotal**. Each of the category rows will now display a subtotal for that month.


Reorganize Table 2
Sort
Date
ascending
Sort entire table
Sort Now
Show rows that match the following:
Reset
Choose a column
Insert Categories from the following:
Date
unique values
days
✓ weeks
months
quarters
years

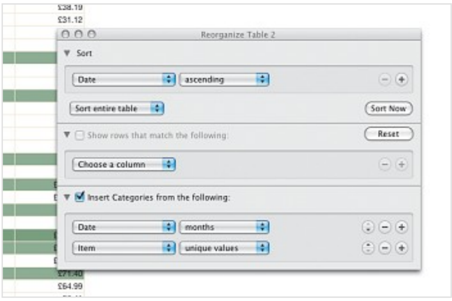
05 Date intervals

You can change the date intervals by choosing **Show More Options** from the pop-up menu in the column header. At the bottom of the **Reorganize Table** dialog is a section for adjusting categories; here you can change the date range to weeks, days or years.


A
B
Date
Payee
January 2009
Add Category Above ⌥↑
Add Category Below ⌥↓
Promote ⌥⌘←
Demote ⌥⌘→
Insert New Sub-Category
Collapse All
Delete Categories
Show More Options...
Postage

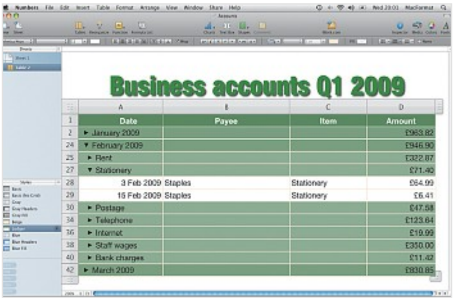
QUICK TIP

The information hierarchy is very useful, but it can leave you with a lot of arrow clicking as you choose the level of detail to view. To avoid all this, click the pop-up menu for any category row and choose either **Expand All** or **Collapse All**.


Reorganize Table 2
Sort
Date
ascending
Sort entire table
Sort Now
Show rows that match the following:
Reset
Choose a column
Insert Categories from the following:
Date
months
Item
unique values

06 Multiple categories

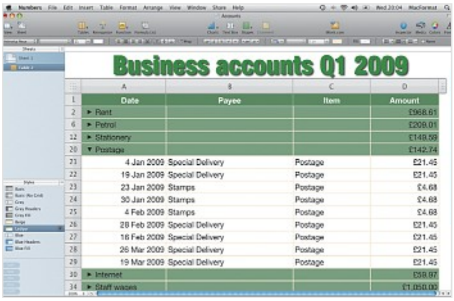
You can use this dialog to divide up your data further. The + button at the bottom-right adds another category, this time for the transaction item. The table now breaks down transactions within the month into summaries for each item type, like stationery or postage.


Business accounts Q1 2009

	Date	Payee	Item	Amount
2	▸ January 2009			£963.82
24	▾ February 2009			£946.90
25	▸ Rent			£322.87
27	▾ Stationery			£71.40
28	3 Feb 2009	Staples	Stationery	£64.99
29	15 Feb 2009	Staples	Stationery	£6.41
30	▸ Postage			£47.58
34	▸ Telephone			£123.64
36	▸ Internet			£19.99
38	▸ Staff wages			£350.00
40	▸ Bank charges			£11.42
42	▸ March 2009			£830.85

07 Drilling down

This makes a long list more manageable. You get easily visible summaries, but you can also 'drill down' to examine transactions in more detail. Puzzled by the **Stationery** figure in February? You only have to click on a couple of arrows to view the transactions themselves.


Business accounts Q1 2009

	Date	Payee	Item	Amount
2	▸ Rent			£968.61
6	▸ Petrol			£209.01
12	▸ Stationery			£148.59
20	▾ Postage			£142.74
21	4 Jan 2009	Special Delivery	Postage	£21.45
22	19 Jan 2009	Special Delivery	Postage	£21.45
23	23 Jan 2009	Stamps	Postage	£4.68
24	30 Jan 2009	Stamps	Postage	£4.68
25	4 Feb 2009	Stamps	Postage	£4.68
26	28 Feb 2009	Special Delivery	Postage	£21.45
27	16 Feb 2009	Special Delivery	Postage	£21.45
28	26 Mar 2009	Special Delivery	Postage	£21.45
29	19 Mar 2009	Special Delivery	Postage	£21.45
30	▸ Internet			£58.97
34	▸ Staff wages			£1,050.00

08 Different categories

Categories are flexible. Let's say we're not interested in analysing expenditure by time but want a quarterly analysis. The **Date** category can be removed and the **Item** category used on its own, showing where the money's been spent, not when. ●

Use Delicious Library

Keep track of all manner of items with this cataloguing tool

>> ON THE DISC
Find Delicious Library 2 on this issue's disc.

>> KEY INFO

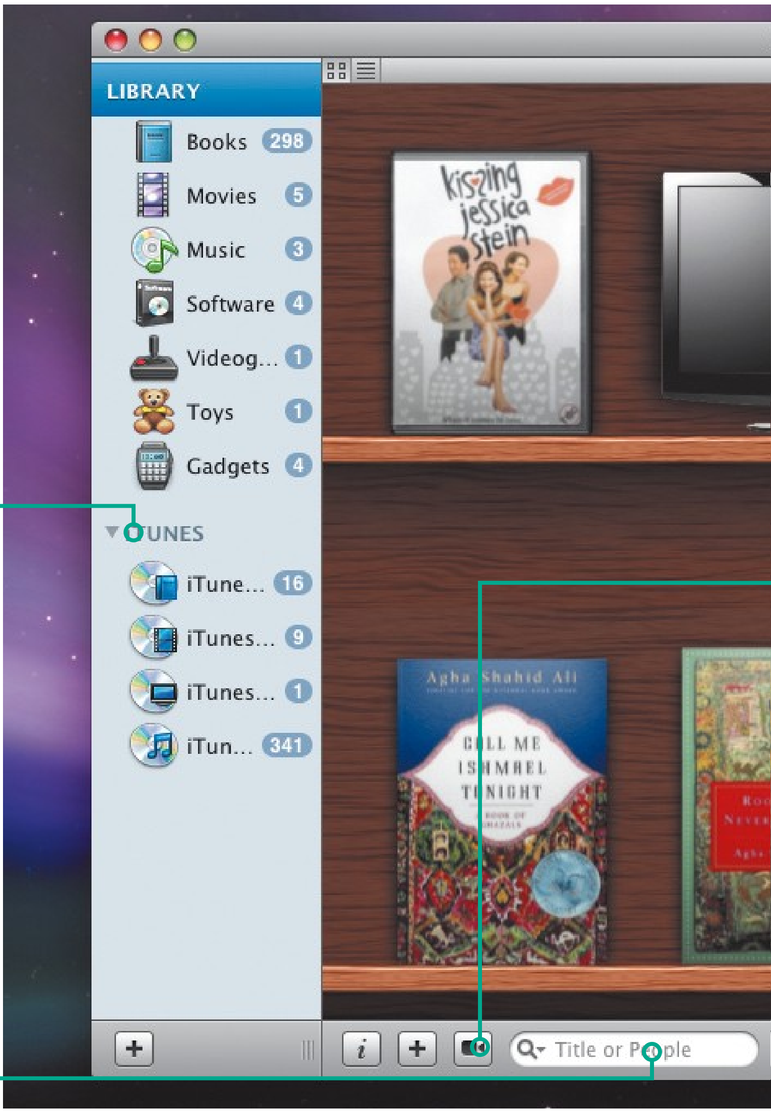
DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Delicious Library 2, Mac OS X 10.5, books, DVDs, CDs, power tools... anything to store.

Many of us have clutter and products all over the place. All kinds of stuff: books, music, DVDs, software, toys, tools, gadgets, games and more. While *Delicious Library* won't help you unclutter your life, it certainly could make it a lot easier to keep track of things. With its elegant design and its clever use of your Mac's built-in iSight camera, this little application is a great tool for maintaining an inventory of your possessions. Install the trial from your disc this month or download it from http://delicious-monster.com

Ian Tromp


LIBRARY
Books 298
Movies 5
Music 3
Software 4
Videog... 1
Toys 1
Gadgets 4
ITUNES
iTune... 16
iTunes... 9
iTunes... 1
iTun... 341
kissing jessica stein
Agha Shahid Ali
CALL ME ISHMAEL TONIGHT
Title or People

It speaks!

By default, *Delicious Library*'s audio interface is on, so as you add new items their titles or descriptions will be spoken by your Mac. You can turn this off in **Preferences**, but it's useful if you're working with many things and don't have time to check each item as it's added.

iTunes too!

By default, the details of your *iTunes* library – music, audiobooks, TV shows and movies – will be added to *Delicious Library* automatically (you can change this setting in Preferences). You can then look up any item on Amazon's website for further information, or choose to start playing it in *iTunes*.

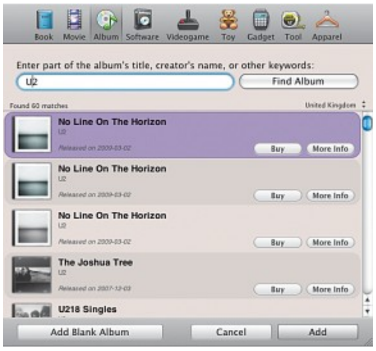
Virtual shelving

By clicking on the Library option in the left-hand panel, you can see all your stuff displayed together on virtual shelves. Alternatively, you can click on a particular category to see only items of one kind. Confusingly, *Delicious Library* refers to these images as Covers, even if it's a tool or a T-shirt that's catalogued.

Apple iPod touch 16 GB

Seeking and finding

You can search through your collection instantly for various keywords: author, title, publisher, composer, etc. Under the **Edit** menu, you'll find the **Search with speech** facility, which uses your Mac's speech recognition capabilities to allow you to find items by speaking your search terms.


Book
Movie
Album
Software
Videogame
Toy
Gadget
Tool
Apparel
Find Album
Found 60 matches
United Kingdom
Buy
More Info
Add Blank Album
Cancel
Add

Enter part of the album's title, creator's name, or other keywords:
U2

No Line On The Horizon
U2
Released on 2009-03-02

No Line On The Horizon
U2
Released on 2009-03-02

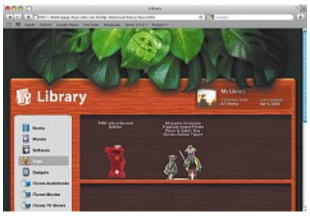
No Line On The Horizon
U2
Released on 2009-03-02

The Joshua Tree
U2
Released on 2007-12-03

U218 Singles

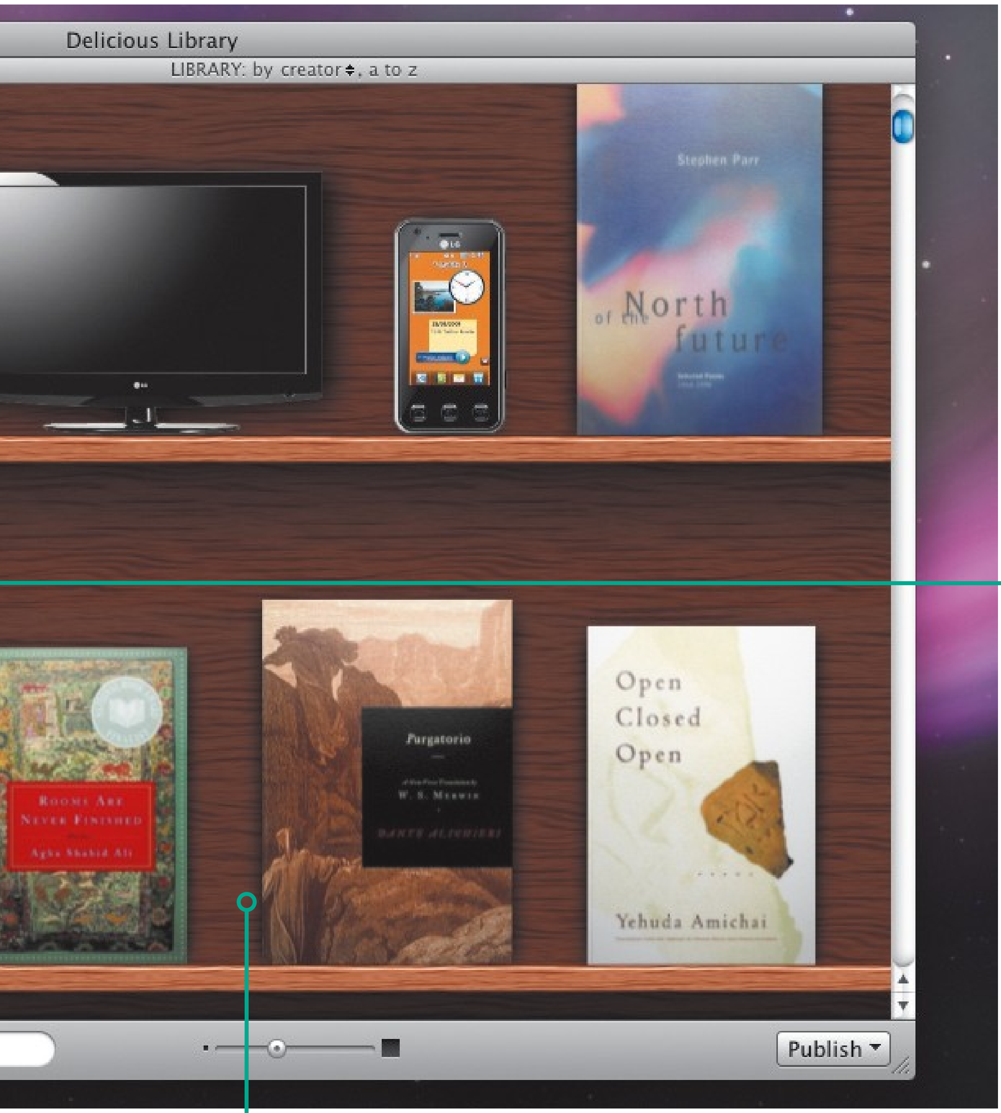
Manual add

Add items manually by hitting ⌘+N, which shows all the categories of items available – use the Search bar to search for any item in Amazon's store. Click on the menu below the Find... button to change the Amazon store country for you. And if you still can't find what you're after, click Add blank... to start from scratch.



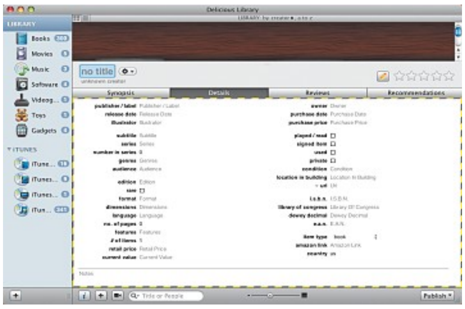
Your library online

It's simple to publish your collections to a website, whether you use MobileMe, *iWeb*, or upload directly to an FTP site. The program does all the background work to produce an elegant, clear and fun website where others can browse your shelves.



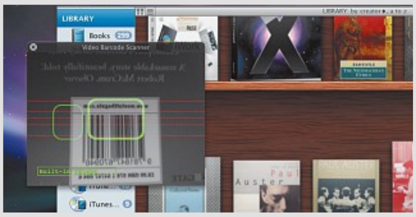
An animated catalogue

There are some great animations in *Delicious Library* - add a new item and the colours of its cover will pour into its placeholder on your shelf; or delete a book and watch flames burn it off your shelf! Deleting other items makes their cover image explode into tiny fragments and fall away. ●



Powered by Amazon

Delicious Library gets information from Amazon, which increases your chances of finding just about any item you might want to store. And if it doesn't find what you're after, you can create a blank item and fill in the details manually.



iSight at your service

Click the camera icon in the bottom row to turn on your iSight. Align the barcode on a book, CD or DVD to these boxes and lines, and you'll hear a beep when *Delicious Library*'s located information for your item.

»KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

FILE MENU SHORTCUTS

⌘ + N	New item
⌘ + ⇧ + N	New shelf
⌘ + ⇧ + ⌥ + P	Publishing setup
⌘ + ⌥ + P	Publish to MobileMe
⌘ + up cursor	Visit published site

EDIT MENU SHORTCUTS

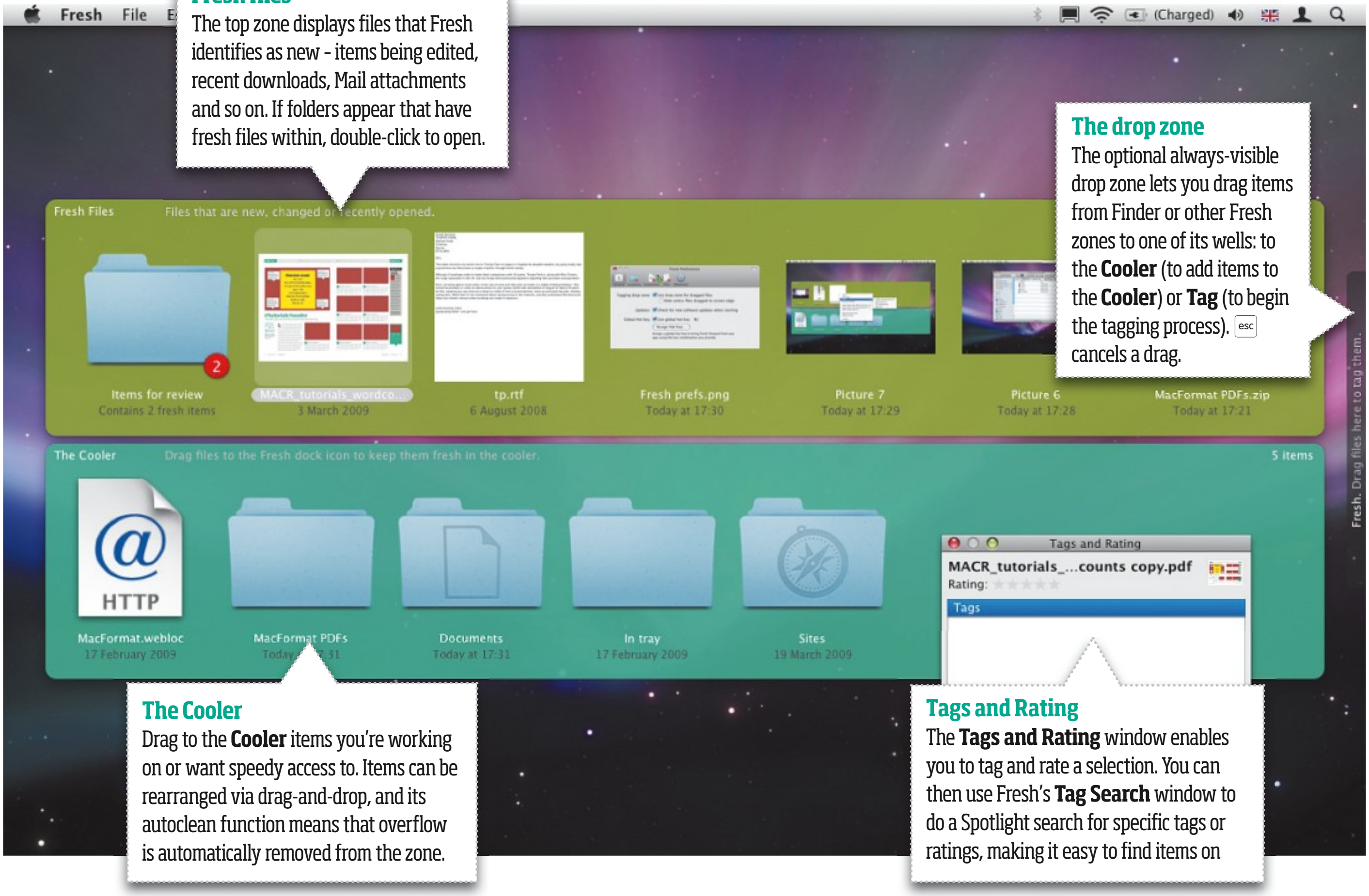
⌘ + D	Duplicate selected item
⌘ + ↩	Edit selected item
⌘ + F	Find

VIEW MENU SHORTCUTS

⌘ + /	Toggle show as list/covers
⌘ + 0	Display title and creator only
⌘ + 1 to 4	Display synopsis, details, reviews

ITEM MENU SHORTCUTS

⌘ + ⇧ + I	Toggle show/hide item details
⌘ + R	Refresh details from internet
⌘ + ⇧ + =	Buy item from Amazon
⌘ + ⇧ + 4	Sell item on Amazon


Fresh File
(Charged)
Fresh Files
Files that are new, changed or recently opened.
Items for review
Contains 2 fresh items
MACR_tutorials_wordco...
3 March 2009
tp.rtf
6 August 2008
Fresh prefs.png
Today at 17:30
Picture 7
Today at 17:29
Picture 6
Today at 17:28
MacFormat PDFs.zip
Today at 17:21
The Cooler
Drag files to the Fresh dock icon to keep them fresh in the cooler.
5 items
HTTP
MacFormat.webloc
17 February 2009
MacFormat PDFs
Today at 17:31
Documents
Today at 17:31
In tray
17 February 2009
Sites
19 March 2009
Tags and Rating
MACR_tutorials_...counts copy.pdf
Rating:
Tags
Fresh. Drag files here to tag them.

Fresh files
The top zone displays files that Fresh identifies as new - items being edited, recent downloads, Mail attachments and so on. If folders appear that have fresh files within, double-click to open.

The drop zone
The optional always-visible drop zone lets you drag items from Finder or other Fresh zones to one of its wells: to the **Cooler** (to add items to the **Cooler**) or **Tag** (to begin the tagging process). esc cancels a drag.

The Cooler
Drag to the **Cooler** items you're working on or want speedy access to. Items can be rearranged via drag-and-drop, and its autoclean function means that overflow is automatically removed from the zone.

Tags and Rating
The **Tags and Rating** window enables you to tag and rate a selection. You can then use Fresh's **Tag Search** window to do a Spotlight search for specific tags or ratings, making it easy to find items on

Easily access your files

Use Fresh to access recent items, tag documents and perform searches

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Fresh 1.1.1, Mac OS X 10.5.5 or later, some files to manipulate

Despite being a *MacFormat* Choice award winner last issue, *Fresh* wasn't an application we entirely 'got' at first. But it clung on, worming its way into our workflow while we were writing the review. This tutorial will show you how *Fresh* can make it easier for you to tag and find documents on your Mac.

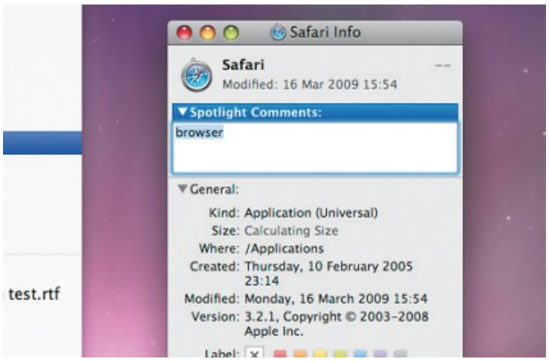
Fresh covers three bases when it comes to files: it provides easy access to recent documents, offers a space to stash items you're working on (to keep them 'fresh'), and enables you to tag documents with user-defined terms, making it simple to find them later.

Although Mac OS X includes rough equivalents to some of these features, *Fresh* centralises everything into a system-wide and highly usable interface, so working with it soon becomes second nature. *Fresh* is also configurable, so you can stop it looking in certain locations or displaying specific file types. Also, via *Fresh*'s preferences, you can change its hot-key (which is ⌘+/ by default).

A trial version of *Fresh* is on your disc, and can be registered for $9 (about £6) at www.ironicsoftware.com.
Craig Grannell

>> ON THE DISC

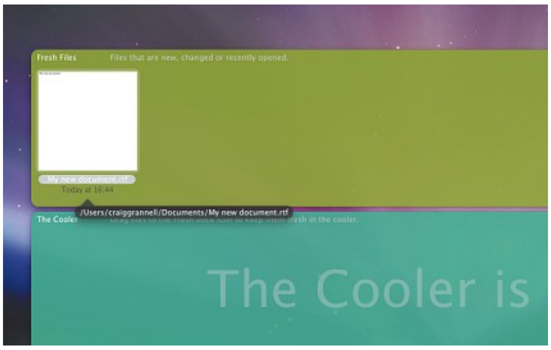
Find Fresh 1.1.1 software on this issue's disc



Safari Info
Safari
Modified: 16 Mar 2009 15:54
▼Spotlight Comments:
browser
▼General:
Kind: Application (Universal)
Size: Calculating Size
Where: /Applications
Created: Thursday, 10 February 2005 23:14
Modified: Monday, 16 March 2009 15:54
Version: 3.2.1, Copyright © 2003–2008 Apple Inc.
Label:

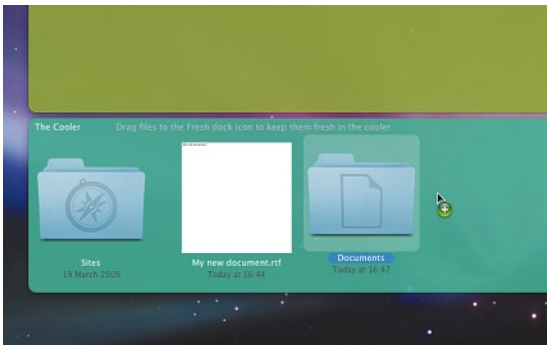
01 Mac OS X equivalents

If you're *Fresh*-less, you can access recent items via Recent Items in the menu, although the only available action is to open a selected item. While Apple doesn't offer tagging in Mac OS X, you can instead use Spotlight comments (via an item's Get Info box), but adding and removing entries is time-consuming. And, of course, you can stash items you're working on in the Dock.


Fresh Files
Files that are new, changed or recently opened.
My new document.rtf
Today at 16:44
/Users/craiggrannell/Documents/My new document.rtf
The Cooler
Drag files to the Fresh dock icon to keep them fresh in the cooler.
The Cooler is

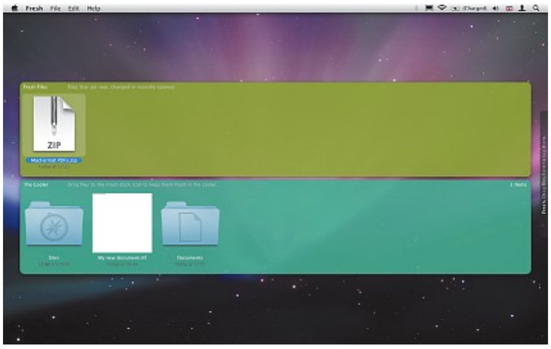
02 Get started with Fresh

Launch *Fresh* and click **Fresh Demo**. Next, launch *TextEdit*, create a new document (just type a few words), save it in your **Documents** folder and then quit *TextEdit*. Invoke *Fresh* (⌘+/) and you'll see your document in the **Fresh Files** zone. Hover your cursor over the file to see its path, or double-click the file to open it.


The Cooler
Drag files to the Fresh dock icon to keep them fresh in the cooler.
Sites
19 March 2009
My new document.rtf
Today at 16:44
Documents
Today at 16:47

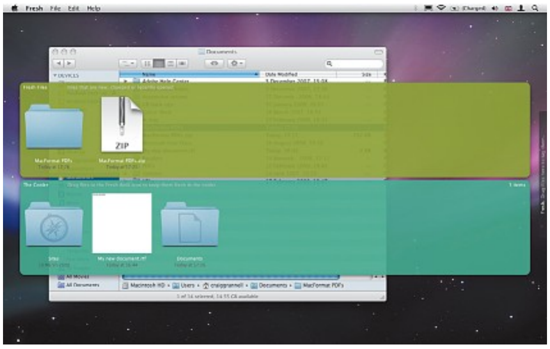
03 Use the Cooler

Invoke *Fresh* and drag your document to the **Cooler** – it will appear in this zone as long as there's room. Open your **User** folder in *Finder*, select your **Sites** and **Documents** folders and drag them to the drop zone at the right of the screen. Drop them on the **Cool** well and they'll be added to the **Cooler**. Drag items to reorder them.



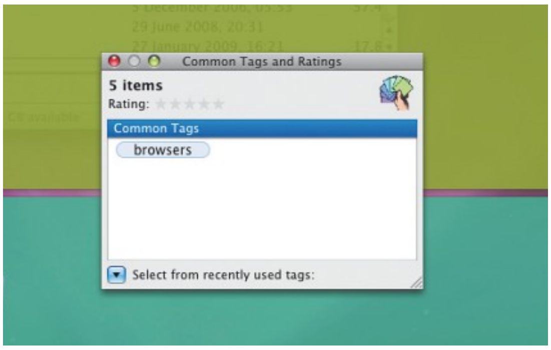
04 Find a download

If you download something from the internet or save a *Mail* attachment, it's easy to forget where you put it, especially if you're not great at filing things in *Finder*. In such cases, invoke *Fresh* and, assuming you've not edited any other files since, your download or saved file will appear at the left of the **Fresh Files** zone.



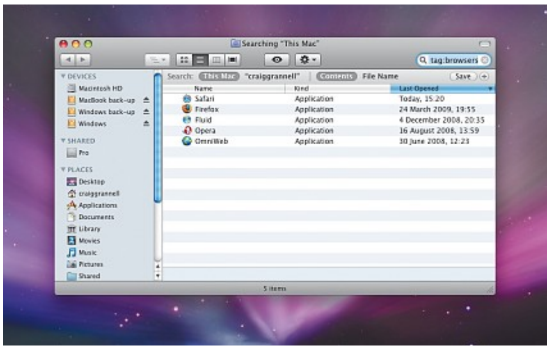
05 Work with archives

If an item in the **Fresh Files** zone is an archive (such as a ZIP or a DMG), double-click to open it. The unpacked files will then be displayed in a *Finder* window. However, if you keep your mouse cursor over *Fresh* so it doesn't disappear, the unpacked files are shown in the **Fresh Files** zone, and you can double-click to open them.


Common Tags and Ratings
5 items
Rating:
Common Tags
browsers
Select from recently used tags:

06 Tag some items

Tagging items makes it possible to build a search results list for items stored in various places. In this example, we've selected all our browsers in *Finder*, dragged them to the drop zone's **Tag** well and given them the tag browsers. Items can also be rated, and the **Select** widget used to view recently applied tags.


Searching "This Mac"
tag:browsers
Search: This Mac "craiggrannell" Contents File Name
Save

Name	Kind	Last Opened
Safari	Application	Today, 15:20
Firefox	Application	24 March 2009, 19:55
Fluid	Application	4 December 2008, 20:35
Opera	Application	16 August 2008, 13:59
OmniWeb	Application	30 June 2008, 12:23

07 Search for tags

When you've applied tags, you can use them as the basis for a search. In Fresh, go to File > Find (or use ⌘+F), select or type relevant tags and ratings and click **Search**. *Finder* will display items matching your criteria. (Note: you can perform searches directly in Spotlight using **tag:**, **rated:** and/or **rated:>=**.) ●

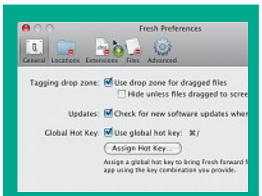
EXPERT TIP

Use the contextual

Contextual menus provide extra functionality. Activated by ctrl-clicking an item (you can ctrl-click several, but options only work on the most recently selected), the options vary slightly per zone. Both the **Fresh Files** zone and **Cooler** enable your selected item to be opened, revealed in Finder, removed from the zone or moved to the Trash. You can also open any folder in the item's path, and access the **Tags and Rating** window via **Edit Tags**.

The contextual menu from a **Fresh Files** zone selection also enables you to define exclusions. The **Never Show** options enable you to exclude the selection, files with the same extension as the selection, or files from any location in the selection's path. Should you change your mind about files or locations you've excluded, edit them in preferences' **Locations**, **Files** and **Extensions** sections.

Craig Grannell is a freelance copy writer, web designer and musician.


Fresh Preferences
General
Locations
Extensions
Files
Advanced
Assign Hot Key...

Tagging drop zone: ☑ Use drop zone for dragged files
☐ Hide unless files dragged to scree
Updates: ☑ Check for new software updates whe
Global Hot Key: ☑ Use global hot key: ⌘/
Assign a global hot key to bring Fresh forward f
app using the key combination you provide.

>>QUICK TIP

If you find the drop zone always being visible annoying, you can disable it via Fresh's **General** preferences. Alternatively, check the **Hide unless...** checkbox to make the drop zone only appear when you drag items to the right-hand screen edge.

Reason with sound

Trevor Middleton's OS X survival guide

>> PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton
Occupation: Freelance consultant, trainer and radio presenter
System(s): 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), MacBook (2.16GHz), Power Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800)

When Mac OS X was at the beta stage, I was chatting to someone who worked in research and development for a music hardware company. Such people are usually quite cynical, having seen any number of much-touted technologies fail to live up to expectations. This, however, was one excited developer. The reason? Nothing. Well, almost nothing.

I'll explain. I'd asked him how OS X was shaping up as an OS that was usable by musicians. His answer – and the reason for his excitement – was: "We're seeing a figure of almost zero latency."

Analogue audio delay

Latency is the delay caused by conversion of an analogue audio signal – such as that from a microphone – to digital data that can be processed by a computer. In some cases, latency can be so great as to make monitoring the recorded output extremely disconcerting, rather like watching one of those live TV interviews with a correspondent several thousand miles away.

Achieving close to zero latency is, then, something of a Holy Grail for any developer who wants their OS to be taken seriously by musicians. And it's not just a few who gain from it: whether you're having real-time conversations on *Skype* or recording your first album in *GarageBand*, every Mac user benefits.

I love chatting to Mac users about the way they use the OS in general, and the *iLife* apps in particular, and while most will say they use *iTunes* and *iPhoto*, and only slightly fewer *iMovie* and *iWeb*, some see using *GarageBand* as a bit of a dark art, reserved for the specialist. Not so.

> *"Some Mac users see using GarageBand as a bit of a dark art that's reserved for the more specialist user. Not so"*

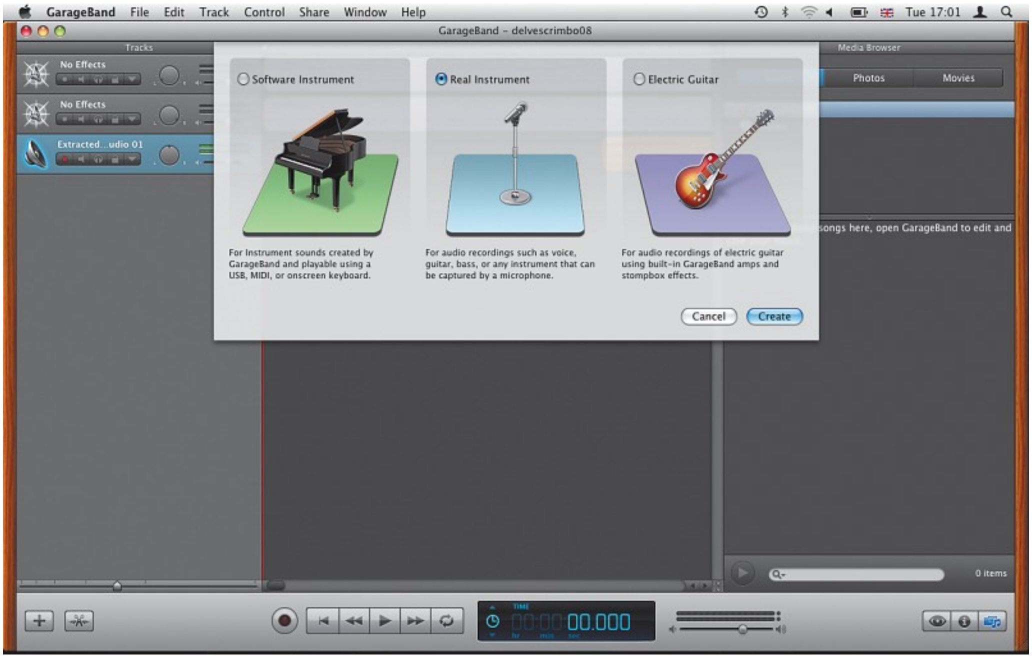
A couple of years ago, I helped a local school produce a DVD of its Christmas show, which they sold to bring in some much-needed funds. From start to finish, the process was carried out in *iLife '06* on my trusty G4 tower. The result was okay, but the sound produced by the tiny microphone on the camcorder left more than a little to be desired, even after I'd extracted the audio (using Advanced > Extract Audio) and used *GarageBand* to enhance it.

Come last year, I decided to use a secret weapon to improve matters – my MacBook. Not just my MacBook, of course. I also took along a couple of high quality condenser microphones and a USB audio interface. Together, they made the kind of mobile recording facility that could only have been dreamed of, even a few years ago.

Stereo microphones

There have been whole volumes dedicated to placing microphones to give a good stereo image; head to YouTube for a few pointers. If you've never set up an external audio device in *GarageBand*, however, it's simple: first connect your microphones (or whatever other analogue source you're using) to your USB or FireWire audio interface, and connect the interface to your Mac. Then, in *GarageBand*, go to Track > New Track…. When prompted, choose **Real Instrument**, which should set up a basic track with no audio effects (you can add those later). Choose your audio interface in the **Input Source** pop-up, then **Save Instrument…**. When you're ready, click **Record** and away you go!

This year, with the audio extracted from the camcorder footage plus the *GarageBand* soundtrack, the sound on the DVD was much more clearly audible. It took some juggling to get the soundtracks in sync using *GarageBand*; professional movie-makers use a timecode. How about that for *iLife '10*, Apple? ●



For Instrument sounds created by GarageBand and playable using a USB, MIDI, or onscreen keyboard.

For audio recordings such as voice, guitar, bass, or any instrument that can be captured by a microphone.

For audio recordings of electric guitar using built-in GarageBand amps and stompbox effects.

Setting up external audio sources in GarageBand is relatively simple - when you know how.

Softline

Premier Macintosh Distributor

Available from :

www.amazon.co.uk

www.apple.com/ukstore

www.atcomputers.co.uk

www.cancomuk.com

www.play.com

www.microlinkpc.co.uk

www.iansyst.co.uk

Western Computer - Bristol
Temple Gate
01179 225 661

Western Computer - Cheltenham
Beechwood Shopping Ctr
01242 234700

Scotsys - Glasgow
164 Great Western Rd
0845 606 2641

Albion Computers - London
112 The Strand
0207 212 9090

Apple Store - Birmingham
West Bullring Shopping Ctr
0121 260 1900

Apple Store - London
235 Regent St
020 7153 9000

Apple Store - Manchester
Arndale Ctr
0161 216 4570

Cancom - Brighton
110 Queens Rd
01273 748 083

Cancom - Cambridge
58 Regent St
0845 686 3300

Solutions Inc - Brighton & Hove
255 Old Shoreham Rd
0870 3898610

Scotsys - Edinburgh
95-97 Nicolson St
0845 606 2641

Square Group Ltd - London
78 New Oxford St
020 7692 9990

GBM - Manchester
One Piccadily Gardens
0161 605 3838

Apple Store - Kent
Bluewater Shopping Ctr
01322 640100

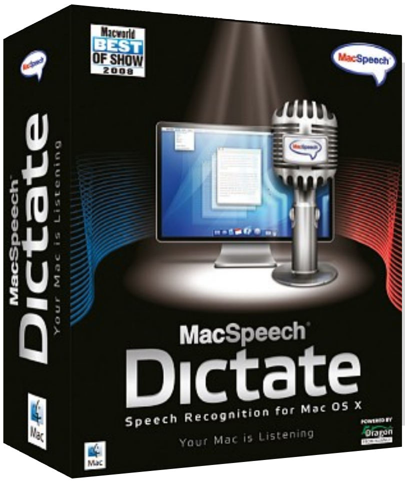
Apple Store - London
Brent Cross Shopping Ctr
0208 359 1050

MacSpeech® Dictate

Speech Recognition for Mac OS X

Speak (and edit) freely.

New Version 1.3
MacSpeech



Introducing the new MacSpeech Dictate 1.3. Navigate and edit existing documents with your voice... and that's just for starters.

Speech recognition so good, about the only thing it can't do is speak for you.

£176.12
RRP INC VAT

MacSpeech Dictate
provides a whole new way to interact with your Mac. Instead of typing, use your voice to input text; rather than clicking your mouse, just speak commands. With MacSpeech Dictate, it's easy.

FREE* Headset

MacSpeech Dictate includes a certified, noise-cancelling microphone headset. Or you can choose from other high-quality microphone options to suit your needs.

Amazing Accuracy
Right out of the box, MacSpeech Dictate will astonish you with its accuracy. You simply talk and leave the recognition to MacSpeech Dictate.

Built Especially For The Mac
Mac users expect only the best from the applications they use on their Macs. MacSpeech Dictate was built from the ground up to ensure the ultimate experience on Mac OS X.

* Plantronics DSP-400 headset included (Note: actual colour & design may vary)

Minimal Training Required
MacSpeech Dictate provides astounding accuracy and productivity. With just minutes of training, you'll be using MacSpeech Dictate's superior capabilities.

Essential Command Capabilities
Instead of using your mouse to select menu commands or your keyboard to type shortcuts, just speak a command. MacSpeech Dictate executes it for you. What could be easier?

Works With The Apps You Already Have
Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, QuarkXPress, and more. And MacSpeech Dictate works great with Apple's applications as well, including iChat, Mail, iPhoto, and Keynote, among others.

Even Greater Recognition
MacSpeech Dictate boasts robust Phrase Training capabilities allowing it to learn as it goes based on your voice input. That means even greater accuracy that more fully integrates into your Macintosh experience.

System Requirements
Intel-based Mac. Mac OS X 10.5.2 or greater ("Leopard") or Mac OS X 10.4.11 ("Tiger"). Internet connection required for product registration.

Visit www.softlineuk.com for more product information

All prices include VAT and correct at time of going to press. All images copyright of their respective owners. E&OE

Share large files

Upload and share your digital data with Apple's MobileMe

>>ON THE DISC
Find Cyberduck 3.2 in the In the Mag section on the disc.

>>KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: MobileMe, Cyberduck, OS X 10.4

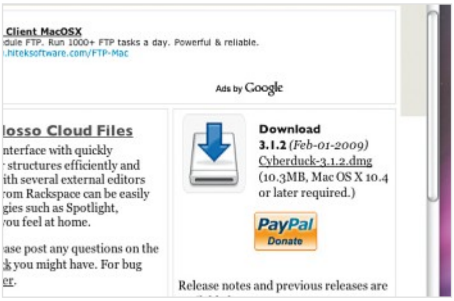
Let's face it, using your web browser to upload files to your MobileMe iDisk service is a pain. It's slow, it crashes and when the files are large, the progress bar does a poor job of letting you know how it's doing. Thankfully, there's a better way. *Cyberduck* is an open source FTP, SFTP, WebDAV, Mosso Cloud Files and Amazon S3 browser for the Mac. Although packed with advanced features, it's really easy to configure and use with MobileMe.

> *"Cyberduck breathes a new lease of life into your MobileMe iDisk service"*

By following these simple steps, you can upload digital data to your iDisk and share it with your friends using MobileMe's new service for sharing files. It's a great way of passing on documents that are too large to email. It's easy and breathes a whole new lease of life into your MobileMe iDisk service.

Ian Osborne

>>HOW TO / Use Cyberduck 3.2 to share files


Client MacOSX
dule FTP. Run 1000+ FTP tasks a day. Powerful & reliable.
.hiteksoftware.com/FTP-Mac
Ads by Google

losso Cloud Files
nterface with quickly
structures efficiently and
ith several external editors
rom Rackspace can be easily
gies such as Spotlight,
ou feel at home.

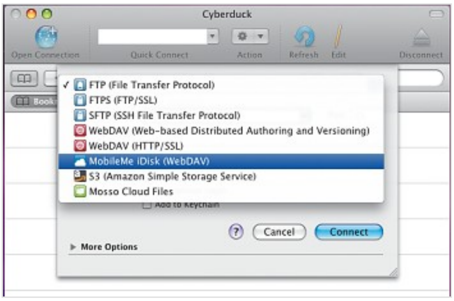
ase post any questions on the
k you might have. For bug
er.

Download
3.1.2 (Feb-01-2009)
Cyberduck-3.1.2.dmg
(10.3MB, Mac OS X 10.4 or later required.)

Release notes and previous releases are
PayPal
Donate

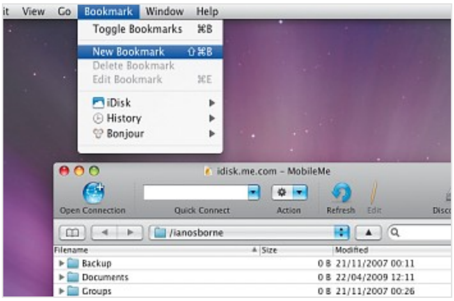
01 Get Cyberduck

First, download and install *Cyberduck*. You can get it from this issue's disc, or point your web browser to **www.cyberduck.ch** and click the download link. At the time of writing, the current version is 3.2. Drag it into your **Applications** folder to install.


Cyberduck
Open Connection
Quick Connect
Action
Refresh
Edit
Disconnect
✓ FTP (File Transfer Protocol)
FTPS (FTP/SSL)
SFTP (SSH File Transfer Protocol)
WebDAV (Web-based Distributed Authoring and Versioning)
WebDAV (HTTP/SSL)
MobileMe iDisk (WebDAV)
S3 (Amazon Simple Storage Service)
Mosso Cloud Files
Add to Keychain
?
Cancel
Connect
More Options

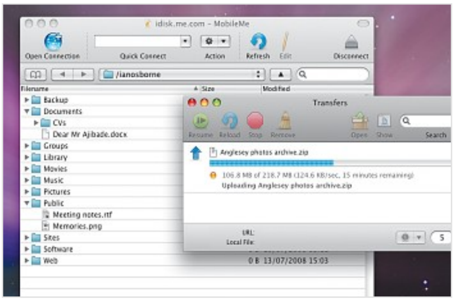
02 Configuring Cyberduck

Cyberduck automatically configures itself for iDisk connections using settings from *System Preferences*. Click on *Cyberduck*'s **Open Connection** icon in the top-left corner, and select **MobileMe iDisk** from the pull-down. Allow it to use your keychain information.


View
Go
Bookmark
Window
Help
Toggle Bookmarks ⌘B
New Bookmark ⇧⌘B
Delete Bookmark
Edit Bookmark ⌘E
iDisk
History
Bonjour
idisk.me.com – MobileMe
Open Connection
Quick Connect
Action
Refresh
Edit
/ianosborne
Filename
Size
Modified
Backup 0 B 21/11/2007 00:11
Documents 0 B 22/04/2009 12:11
Groups 0 B 21/11/2007 00:26

03 Bookmark connections

Bookmark the connection by selecting **New Bookmark** from the **Bookmark** pull-down. A window pops up. Change the connection title if you wish, then close the window. Toggle between your bookmarks and connection by clicking the **book** icon, just like in *Safari*.


106.8 MB of 218.7 MB (124.6 KB/sec, 15 minutes remaining)
Uploading Anglesey photos archive.zip
idisk.me.com – MobileMe
Open Connection
Quick Connect
Action
Refresh
Edit
Disconnect
/ianosborne
Filename
Size
Modified
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Documents
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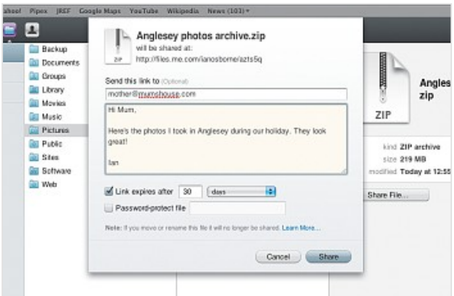
Dear Mr Ajibade.docx
Groups
Library
Movies
Music
Pictures
Public
Meeting notes.rtf
Memories.png
Sites
Software
Web
0 B 13/07/2008 15:03
Transfers
Resume
Reload
Stop
Remove
Open
Show
Search
Anglesey photos archive.zip
URL:
Local File:

04 Upload a file

Upload a file by dragging and dropping it onto the connections window, into one of iDisk's individual folders if you wish. We're uploading a photo archive, so we'll put it in the **Pictures** folder. The progress bar is better than any web browser's, and upload speed is great.


Anglesey photos archive.zip will be shared at:
http://files.me.com/ianosborne/azts5q

Send this link to (Optional)
mother@mumshouse.com

Hi Mum,

Here's the photos I took in Anglesey during our holiday. They look great!

Ian

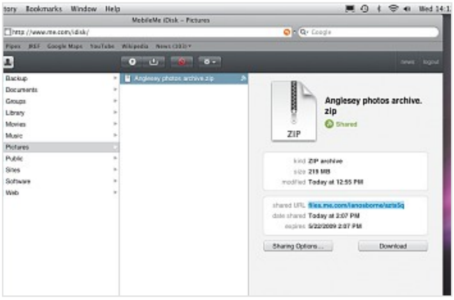
☑ Link expires after 30 days
☐ Password-protect file

Note: If you move or rename this file it will no longer be shared. Learn More...

kind ZIP archive
size 219 MB
modified Today at 12:55
Pipex
JREF
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (103)
Backup
Documents
Groups
Library
Movies
Music
Pictures
Public
Sites
Software
Web
ZIP
Anglesey photos archive.zip
Share File...
Cancel
Share

05 Share files

To allow others to download your files, go to **www.me.com**. Log in and select **iDisk**. Click on the file you want to share and press the **Share File** button. You can send an email and message containing the link from here if you wish, or just press **Share** to create a link.


Anglesey photos archive.zip
Shared

kind ZIP archive
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expires 5/22/2009 2:07 PM
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MobileMe iDisk – Pictures
http://www.me.com/idisk/
Google
Pipex
JREF
Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (103)
Backup
Documents
Groups
Library
Movies
Music
Pictures
Public
Sites
Software
Web
Anglesey photos archive.zip
ZIP
Sharing Options...
Download

06 Email the link

The person you sent the email to gets a message offering the download link. You can navigate back to the file and share it this way again, or if you don't want to use the auto-send option, copy the link as shown here and paste it onto an email. ●

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Kingston 1GB 1066MHz Module	£25.46 + Vat	NEW ITEM
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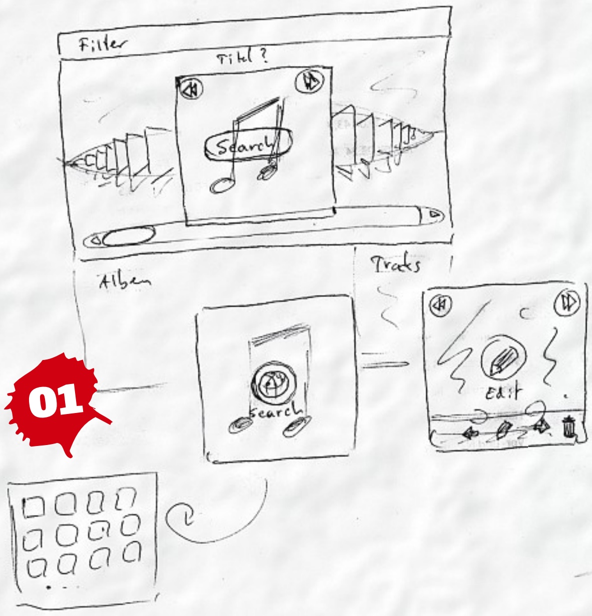
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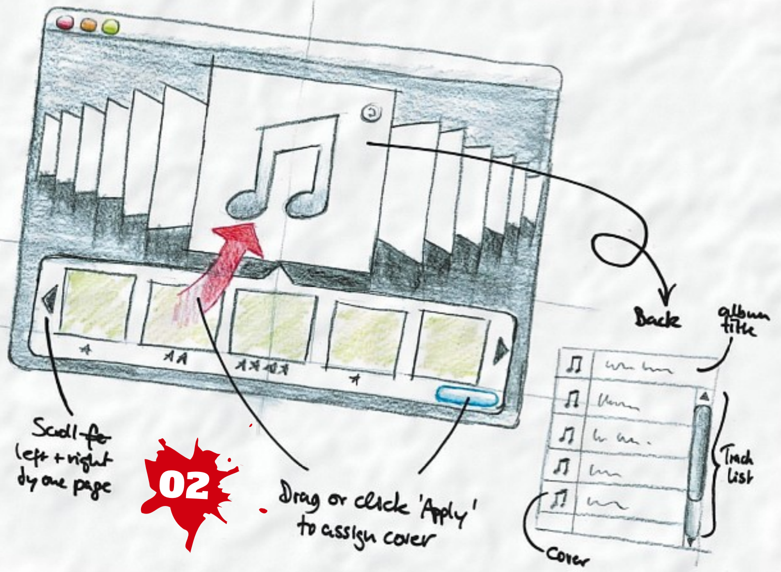
02
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Scroll for left + right by one page
Drag or click 'Apply' to assign cover
Track list
Cover

Before you buy

The story of how software and hardware gets born

Some companies will slap their logo on a product made by any old factory. Others nurse their designs from initial concept to something proudly displayed in an Apple Store. **Christopher Phin** talks to two such companies to lift the curtain on the part of a product's lifecycle that most of us never see

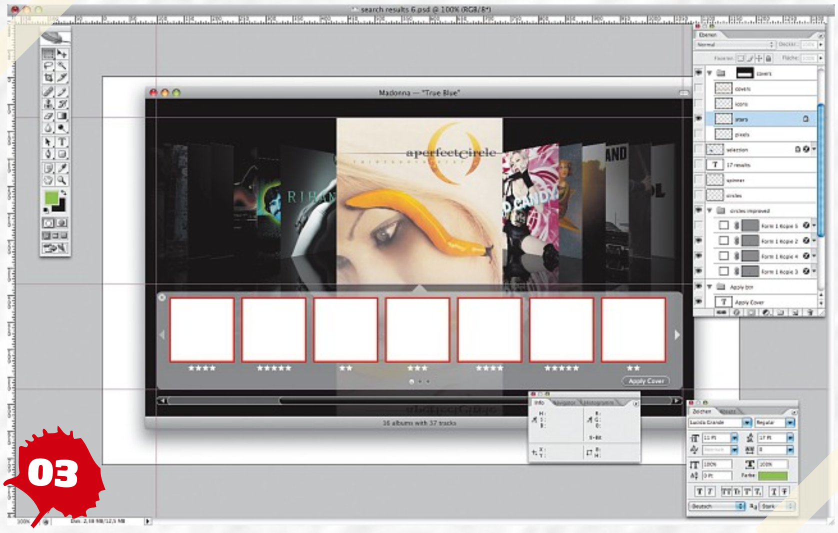
Software

equinux CoverScout 3

One of the best things about the Mac is the community of dedicated software developers that creates software of a quality that Windows users can only dream of. Munich-based equinux is one such company, so we asked them how the process of creating a new product begins.

"Completely new software normally starts with a first idea," says Ralf Pfleghar, equinux's Development Manager. "Sometimes it's just the zeitgeist that leads to a first idea of what a product should do." The next step, Pfleghar tells us, is to check its feasibility. "To see if our mock-ups can be achieved technically, we have to code and test first-builds of the applications. The **Cover Flow** that we're using in *CoverScout 3* [equinux's tool for adding album artwork to tracks in iTunes] is, for example, way more complicated then the **Cover Flow** Apple is using in Mac OS X. Then we start iterating the building of features, implementing parts, trying them, staring at them, making new mock-ups with improvements, then implementing again. In general, we are using 'scrum' as a software development process, which means we break down the process of building an application into several stages."

"From the first build to the so-called 'Golden Master', which is the build we're shipping with the first boxes, it normally takes several months," says equinux's CEO, Till Schadde. "The number of builds we're producing and iterating from the beginning to the final version is a four-digit number."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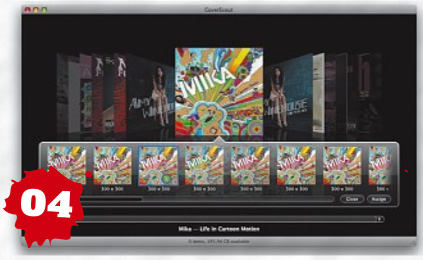
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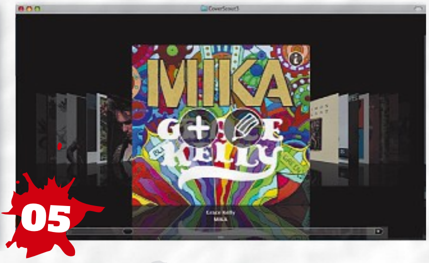

05

From idea to reality

Who, though, has an input in the process? Schadde, of course, is a massive driving-force, but the developers also have a considerable hand in shaping the vision of a product. "We collect the feedback of our users from previous versions; the management team at equinux also has an ear to the market," Pfleghar says. "The longer a project runs the more we depend on feedback from our own staff. And we depend on feedback of first users especially regarding the user interface of an application."

But what about the actual nuts and bolts? How, literally – physically – does equinux turn one of their ideas into something real that can be tested out? "We're using paper prototypes, *Photoshop*, *Interface Builder* and code," says Pfleghar. "Of course, they are all limited; tools that push around existing user interface elements don't help, because we want to make something new, therefore we have to draw it ourselves.

"We spend 33% of our time on planning, 33% for main development and 33% for finishing and polishing," Pfleghar says. "We really love all stages and try to always spend the same effort on each," he continues.

"Usually polishing gets a bit less because of the time-to-market," chips in Schadde. "My passion is the user interface and I'm well known for making clean sweeps at the very last stage of a project. But I think this is what makes the difference: at the end you understand the processes, the flow and the solution to the original problem."

Products have to be tested at all stages: "We use a combination of planned unit testing, automated testing and ad hoc extreme-testing to produce reports about regular bugs and problems with the flow of the software," says Pfleghar. "We have a lot of different newer and older Mac models in our testing lab to simulate the set-up of different users."

Getting it right

It's rare for an equinux product to run through most of the process, only to be axed at the last minute. "We might strip out any unimportant things late because we maybe notice that it is not necessary or that it confuses the user, but the scrum approach helps us not to go too far with risky features," says Pfleghar. Schadde adds that it's more common for them to release a basic 1.0 version, with a plan in place for how it can be developed in later versions.

As is clear from talking to equinux, and seeing these sketches and early interface mock-ups, there's a lot of thought and effort from many people that goes into creating an application, even one that's as simple on the surface as *CoverScout*.

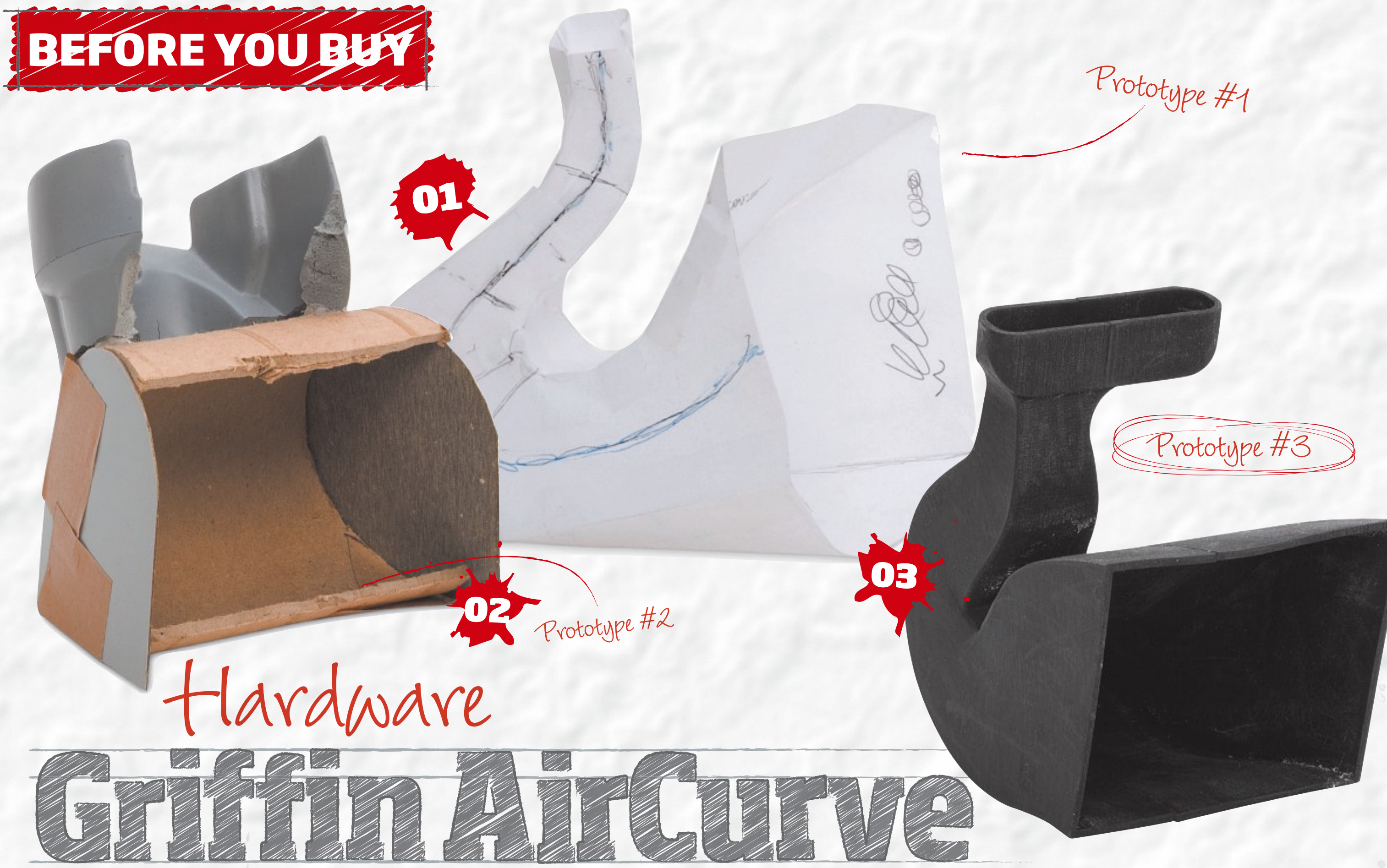
[01] This was the first back-of-a-napkin sketch for CoverScout 3's interface.

[02] The idea was then developed; here, results appear below Cover Flow.

[03] Interface designers begin to prototype the visual elements in Photoshop.

[04] This is a development build of the app, basically to see how Cover Flow works.

[05] A concept design for putting controls on top of the cover artwork.



[01] This was the first physical prototype, made of paper, tape and hope!

[02] This more sophisticated design was again trying to prove feasibility.

[03] A stereolithograph prototype, made of medium-density polyresin.

Hardware

Griffin AirCurve

Although a few details might change, the story of developing hardware products is essentially the same as for software.

"Regardless of where the idea originates, the front end of the process is wide open," says Tim Coble, Category Management Manager for Griffin. He continues, "anyone at Griffin can pitch a new product idea by writing a one-page concept summary and presenting it to the team in a weekly product development meeting." J Curtis, Griffin's Project Manager, concurs: "The Griffin process is fairly organic. Usually a product starts as a cubicle-side discussion or a napkin drawing."

In the case of Griffin's AirCurve (a modern interpretation of the gramophone horn that amplifies an iPhone's speaker), Jamin Guy, Software Category Manager, tells us that the process "began when I was sitting at home listening to music on my iPhone and thought there must be an easy, powerless way to amplify the sound."

"Once an idea is had," says George Campbell, Director of Industrial Design, "we quickly try to build assumptions around it, such as: how many people have this need? What kinds of solutions already exist for this? How could we solve this problem? What would our solution cost? And so on. By quickly vetting a concept, we can decide if and how we should move forward.

"Griffin's product development happens much like any other product development, with a few small but significant differences. Like most product development, we start with "blue sky" concepting – quick sketches of various solutions or forms of a given product. From there we join our industrial design concepts with our in-house engineering, to push the project into a manufacturable state. The differences that make Griffin's process effective include: a strong in-house team of designers, engineers and marketing talent, a strong speed-to-market awareness and thinking, and strong technological competency. We do almost all the development from our home office in Nashville."

Grand designs

Jennifer Fisher, Griffin's Marketing Manager, says, "Once a category manager takes an idea and creates a project, the collaborative work begins. Marketing positions the product within the brand offering, create packaging and define and begin executing a launch plan. Industrial designers, mechanical and electrical engineers work to create a 'proof of concept' and refine. Once we have the final design and feature set, product production and testing begin."

As with equinux, there are lots of people who get involved throughout. "During the idea-vetting process, we try to get all departments to weigh in on the concept," says Campbell. "Once the project gets a green light, we work together inter-departmentally to share the information needed to bring the design to the next stage. We will often take a concept outside the company via our user-research team (also an in-house discipline) by doing panel surveys or focus groups. There are constant 'design reviews' along the way to make sure we're still on target."

When it comes to what tools the team uses to develop and create its products, Coble accepts the label 'techno-geek'. "We're always looking for the next cool tool to help us be more effective, efficient and focused," he says.

"In the Industrial Design group," says Campbell, "we use a mix of tools and methods to communicate the design both internally and externally. Tools range from a simple pen and paper for sketching, to computer workstations for 3D CAD and animations. The point is not what tool is used,

AFTER-SALES SUPPORT / GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Even when a product is on the shelves, the job of the developer doesn't end; products need after-sales support. "In a perfect world, support isn't necessary," equinux's Customer Relations Manager, Matthias Spang, says. He continues, "But we don't live in a perfect world. The challenge is to react to requests on the one hand and to reply individually on the other. We always try to improve things - for example we support customers via Twitter, have an iChat support where users can ask questions, and much more. But I think the easiest way is to provide users with an FAQ system that helps to clarify frequent questions."

Tim Coble, Category Management Manager for Griffin, makes a similar point: "Some types of product support are obvious, must-have things, like offering top-notch tech support. However, we're going the extra mile to support both our customers and retail distribution channels. We're producing instructional videos and podcasts, for our customers, as well as retail workers who answer customers' questions about our products. Our site provides information and support, but like many companies, we realise that we need to go beyond online support and ensure that support is available when the customer needs it and in a format that is convenient for them. This is a challenge, but we have more tools and technologies at our disposal than ever before and we're using them to our customers' maximum benefit."

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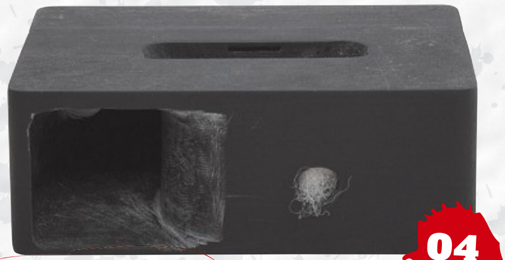

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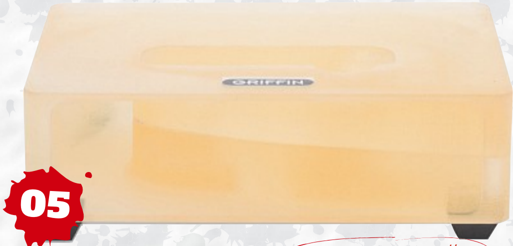
Work in progress #1



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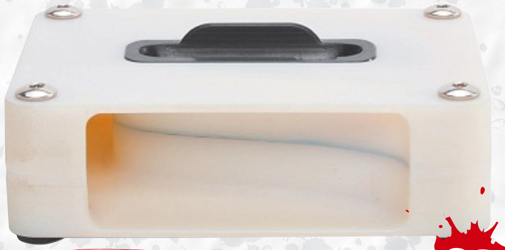
Work in progress #2



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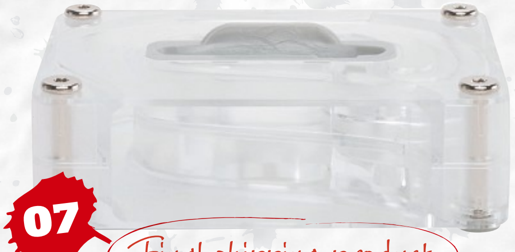
Work in progress #3



07

Final shipping product

but what we are trying to communicate. Some projects require a full-scale model to show actual size and form, while other projects might only require 2D drawings to be understood. We do often use 3D renderings and 3D prints from our in-house prototyping machines to help us quickly visualise the product concept, test the fit of the components, and work out details in a quick manner."

"With the AirCurve", says Guy, "we read up on old-school phonograph-type air horn amplifiers and did a lot of guesswork initially. After the design was put into a 3D file by one of the industrial designers we were able to tweak the curve of the horn to tune it and make it sound better."

Working together

Even when it comes to creating packaging and point-of-sale material, it's still collaborative. "Much like the rest of Griffin's inner workings, the development of the product packaging is often a team effort," says Campbell.

Coble agrees: "One of the keys to our success in this area has been getting the packaging and copywriting team involved in the product development process as soon as its possible. While we're still in the concept phase, we're discussing packaging and positioning – asking questions earlier in the process and taking into consideration issues that these functions are uniquely able to bring to light. The end result is much better integration of product and presentation, less rework and shorter timelines."

It's a sentiment that is echoed by Senior Copy-Editor Web Webster: "Branding in general, and packaging in particular, are the place where all of the company's disciplines really come together. Our graphic and structural designers work within and establish the architecture of packaging formats, using the mix of design and materials that will do the best job of selling the product and protecting it in transit."

So there you go: that lump of plastic called an AirCurve that you can pick up on Amazon for seventeen quid is born out of the passion and commitment of dozens of people working together over a period of months, and has been through as rigorous and credible a development process as any Mac.

[04] A more advanced stereolithograph made of medium-density polyresin.

[05] Griffin continued to tune the acoustic horn for better sound.

[06] The final prototype; this model had a rubber gasket for airtight sound.

[07] And there you have it: the final production product, ready for the retail chain!

>> FOR MORE INFORMATION

When we interviewed equinux and Griffin, both companies provided us with pages and pages of fantastic insight into the development process. It's far more then we could possibly hope to fit into MacFormat, so we've posted the entire interview transcripts on our site for you to enjoy. Go to **www.techradar.com/597046** to read them!

Q&A

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"Connecting a projector to a new MacBook"

Q I have a brand-new white MacBook running Mac OS X 10.5.6. I also have a BenQ projector (MP620). When I connected my iBook G4 (10.4.9) to the projector, it worked fine, but the projector fails to recognise the new MacBook. I think I am using the right adaptor, since the MacBook is detected on an HP projector.

Francesca

For now you can only use the LED Cinema Display with the latest MacBook family.

A Obvious stuff first. Make sure that your MacBook display is set to the same resolution and colour depth as the projector. It's also possible that the projector is expecting input on a different port – the VGA port, perhaps. Most projectors will auto-detect which port you are driving but some have a switch or a setting on the on-screen menu to change between inputs.

If none of that helps, you might like to try this little trick. I have found that some MacBooks struggle to detect an external monitor (or projector) in mirrored display mode. Sometimes you need to reboot several times for the external display to 'take'. If you hit the F7 key to pop it into extended desktop mode you often get a more stable connection. Once the display is up, you can hit F7 again to switch to mirrored mode and it should stick.

Most projectors will auto-detect which port you are using on your Mac.

"How are LED displays with older Macs?"

Q I have a mid-2008 Mac Pro with DVI ports and I would like to purchase a new monitor as a replacement for my now-ageing 17-inch Apple LCD Display. Clearly, Apple's 24-inch and 30-inch LCD cinema displays are an option, but I would prefer to own the new 24-inch LED Cinema Display. Is there any possibility of connecting one to the older Mac Pros, which lack the new Mini DisplayPort?

Karl Malcolm

A Confession time first. Last month I pooh-poohed Mike Clarke's suggestion that there might be such a thing as an LED screen at all. This was because I am an idiot. It turns out that Apple does make something they call an LED monitor. They aren't using tiny coloured LEDs for each of the individual sub-pixels, however – the display just has a grid of white LEDs to provide the backlight instead of a fluorescent tube. These light up more quickly, more evenly and use less power, which is undoubtedly the way ahead for the future, but it's not like the incremental difference between LED and fluorescent back-lit screens is so huge that it's worth upgrading just for that feature. In my opinion.

Now, to answer your actual problem. Although there is nothing in the Mini DisplayPort specification that would prevent someone making an adaptor to convert from DVI to Mini

14 magnets hold an iMac screen in place so you'll need serious suction to remove it.

DisplayPort, no one has yet. (There is a Mini DisplayPort to DVI adaptor, but it goes the other way – to connect new MacBooks to DVI monitors). What you can do though is replace your graphics card with one that sports a mini DisplayPort. The Radeon HD 4870 is sold by Apple as an upgrade for 2008 Mac Pros, for exactly this purpose. It's £280, though.

"What's the best way to upgrade my iMac's disk?"

Q I have an 18-month-old aluminium 24-inch iMac and want to upgrade the hard disk. Can I upgrade to any size I like? Is there a physical space constraint? What sort of disk should I be buying? Is there any easy way to copy my current disk over? I have a 1TB USB disk backup, could I recover using *Time Machine*?

Mark Ambrose

A Any 3.5-inch SATA drive ought to work just fine. There is no upper limit on capacity, so you can put a terabyte or 1.5TB drive in. There isn't much ventilation space in an iMac though, so you may need to need to keep an eye on the drive temperature and maybe adjust the minimum speed for the hard disk fan. You can do this with the Fan Control *System Preferences* pane (search versiontracker.com for *Fan Control 1.2*). Actually getting inside the iMac is a bit fiddly; you'll need TORX screwdrivers in size 6 and 8 and some suction cups to pull the glass front off (it's held on by fairly strong magnets). The kind that glaziers use to hold window panes is ideal but you can get by with ordinary bathroom suction cup hooks, if you use several at once.

Recovering your Leopard install and data is the easiest part. Just boot from the Leopard DVD and format the new drive. Then choose Utilities > Restore System from Backup, on the installer menu. Provided your *Time Machine* volume can be mounted without any special drivers, that's all you need to do. If you have an eSATA drive enclosure or something that does need a driver, just complete a blank OS install from the DVD, install the driver and then restore from *Time Machine*.

"Could I run Windows Home Server on a Mac?"

Q Is an iMac compatible with Windows Home Server? I have an HP server, which I bought last year, that is storing lots of precious family photos and video and I don't really want to part with it.

John Gobbi

A It certainly is and there is quite a good step-by-step guide at www.redmondpie.com/how-to-access-windows-home-server-from-mac-os-x/.

Beware Social Networking

Bill Gallop

Ever since email came about in the late 1960s people have used it to communicate, sometimes without really knowing who they were speaking to. With the telephone you can pick up verbal clues about a person but with email, IM and social networking it's more difficult unless you have met them.

If you have been online for long enough you may, like me, have chatted with others over Usenet, as well as a number of different forums, you may have accounts on ICQ, AIM or MSN. I had a MySpace page for a few days until it got hacked; I'm on Flickr, LinkedIn, Friends Reunited, Twitter and recently set up a Facebook account.

All of the above could be construed as social networking, essentially they are ways for people to connect and get to know each other. Twitter is probably the current flavour of the month but it probably won't be forever, in fact the odds are that it won't be. ITV thought that it was on to a good thing when it bought Friends Reunited in 2005, but an explosion of people using Facebook, which doesn't charge a membership fee, meant it was overtaken. Friends Reunited has since dropped its fee and is now up for sale.

> *"Don't post any personal information on a page that is publicly accessible… mobile phone numbers are a no-no"*

It's important to safeguard your privacy when using any networking site, making sure you use a unique password for each. Logins are often based on your email address and if your password is compromised on one site you don't want it to be compromised on others by default. Tools such as *1Password* from Agile Web Solutions (**http://agilewebsolutions.com/**) will enable you to manage all of your different passwords.

Don't post personal information on a page that is publicly accessible, I have seen people give out their mobile phone number, which is a real no-no.

Be careful about who you tag as a "friend". In real life, we have friends and acquaintances and we allow them to know different levels of private information about us. I have yet to see a social network that has any real form of granularity. Facebook only allows you to specify Nobody, Friends, Friends of Friends, Networks and Everybody. So before you post that picture of you worse for wear after several pints just make sure that the person about to interview you for a job isn't a Friend of a Friend.

Bill Gallop is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month Bill will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

» QUICK TIP
If you can't remember the name of a file, you can still use Spotlight to search by date. Entering **date: 1/12/08-31/12/08** will find any file that was created during December last year, for example.

"Retrieving from fritzed portable hard disk"

Q **My PowerBook G4 stopped working, due to a faulty logic board (I think). I removed the hard disk to get to the information on it via another 2.5-inch disk case. However, during the process, I completely destroyed all said information when a magnetic holder I was having to use to extract the Torx screws, rolled two feet across the table and stuck lovingly to the drive.**

The disk will mount but I can't initialise or reformat it; all I get is 'input/output error' in *Disk Utility*, so I presume the firmware is gone too. It's a Hitachi Travelstar disk. I know the contents are long gone but is there any way of making it come back to life?

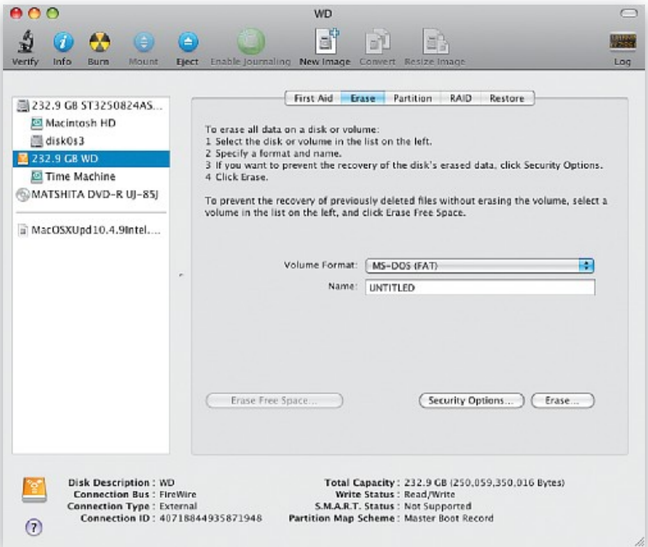
Christopher Cunliffe

A If your magnetic holder really had corrupted the drive, there would almost certainly be no way of repairing it. As well as the filing system and the data itself, the magnetic surface of your hard disk is also used to hold the servo-positioning data for the read/write head. This must be calibrated for each individual drive at the factory and if it is damaged then there is no way to restore it. In the 1980s, hard disks were organised in quite a different way and the low-level format could be performed with a utility or through the BIOS. There are still some programs that call themselves low-level formatters but they are just resetting the drive to its factory initialisation, which isn't the same thing at all.

However, you almost certainly will not have entirely erased the low-level format on your drive. Modern hard disks have very high coercivity, which means they need extremely high magnetic fields to change the data on them. This allows bits to be stacked very close together without the magnetic field from the bits themselves corrupting their neighbours. To erase a hard disk, you would have to rub a very strong permanent magnet against the surface of the disk platters themselves (and getting at the platters would, in turn, destroy the drive anyway).

The input/output error in *Disk Utility* is actually a documented bug in Leopard. It is sporadic and seems to only affect external drives. Several users have reported that switching from a FireWire to a USB interface fixes the problem but, perplexingly, others have reported success switching the other way! You probably don't need to reformat your disk at all but if you do, another method you can try is to boot from a Tiger DVD and use the *Disk Utility* from the installer menu to reformat.

Incidentally, although ordinary magnets won't erase the data on a hard disk, they can magnetise the moving parts inside. So it's still not a good idea to leave magnets close to your disk.



To erase all data on a disk or volume:
1 Select the disk or volume in the list on the left.
2 Specify a format and name.
3 If you want to prevent the recovery of the disk's erased data, click Security Options.
4 Click Erase.

To prevent the recovery of previously deleted files without erasing the volume, select a volume in the list on the left, and click Erase Free Space.

Volume Format: MS-DOS (FAT)
Name: UNTITLED

Disk Description : WD
Connection Bus : FireWire
Connection Type : External
Connection ID : 40718844935871948
Total Capacity : 232.9 GB (250,059,350,016 Bytes)
Write Status : Read/Write
S.M.A.R.T. Status : Not Supported
Partition Map Scheme : Master Boot Record

When you boot from the Leopard DVD, you'll find that Disk Utility is available from the installer menu

"Is it possible to read Publisher files on a Mac?"

Q **I need to find a desktop publisher that will run on Macs, but also read MS *Publisher* files. Can you help?**

Steve Smith

A MS *Publisher* is notorious for saving document layouts and colour information in such a way that virtually no other DTP program can import it. Adobe *Pagemaker 7* will do

» MACFIXIT TIPS / Missing or unavailable slideshow themes in iPhoto '09

Some people who have upgraded to *iPhoto '09* may find the slideshow options to be limited in comparison with what is advertised on Apple's website. Apple Discussion user R Sperber: "I have the new *iPhoto '09* running on my old G4 Mac mini. When creating a new slideshow, the app just offers me the Classic and Ken Burns themes, even though there should be four other themes for slideshows."

This problem is more than likely due to you not having a computer that's fast enough to handle the new slideshow themes and other enhanced features. According to Apple's *iLife* system requirements web page, the latest *iPhoto* requires the following system configurations: Mac computer with an Intel, PowerPC G5, or PowerPC G4 (867MHz or faster) processor; 512MB of RAM; 1GB recommended; approximately 4GB of available disk space.

Even though some computers such as the Mac mini G4 (with at least 1.25GHz) appears to meet the minimum requirements, the processor (and in some cases the video card) does not support the capabilities required for some of the slideshow themes. But, Apple does not mention this in the system requirements.

However, in a recently released knowledge-base article, Apple clarified the system requirements for *iPhoto* and claimed both the processor type and available video RAM may restrict certain slideshow themes. Regardless of processor type, if you are using a video card that has less than 64MB of video RAM you will not be able to see certain slideshows, and on any PowerPC G4 machine, you will be limited to the Classic and Ken Burns slideshows only.

All PowerPC G5 computers Apple shipped should be able to run the slideshows, unless you have a Power Mac G5 and have replaced the video card with one that has less than 64MB VRAM.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Safari 4 beta not playing with Hotmail

Since Apple released *Safari 4* beta to bleeding-edge users, many have reported not being able to properly access functions of Hotmail, Microsoft's flagship online email service. Reported issues include not being able to log into accounts, not being able to access messages, and not being able to manipulate messages (deleting, moving, and so on). Most signs point to a programming conflict between Apple's adherence to the most current WebKit standards and Hotmail's lack of including *Safari 4* beta as a "legitimate" browser.

I logged into my Hotmail account to see if my build of *Safari 4* beta had similar issues. I was able to access my account and Hotmail took me to my inbox. However, from that point I was rendered useless. I could not view any messages, folders or create a new message. However, I could access **Related place** such as **Today** and **Contact List**. When I clicked the **Calendar** option, I got this message from Microsoft that said: "Windows Live is designed for you, but maybe not for your browser".

The error message continues: "This website works best when viewed using Windows, *Internet Explorer 6* or later, *Safari 3.0* or later, or Mozilla *Firefox 2.0* or later."

However, this is the odd part: "To get the most out of Windows Live, upgrade to the latest version of Windows, *Internet Explorer, Safari* or Mozilla *Firefox*."

These are links to the download pages for each of these browsers. The interesting thing here is that the link for *Safari* takes you to Apple's *Safari 4* beta download page – a browser that Windows Live has determined does not work for some of their services.

Workarounds

Nonetheless, there are some workarounds to access your Hotmail account:

1. Use *Firefox*. Accessing my account with *Firefox* version 3.0.8 worked like a charm. I was able to read and delete all my spam as well as access folders, **Today**, **Contact List**, and **Calendar** (although temporarily unavailable at time of testing).

2. Activate **User Agent**. In the **Advanced** tab of *Safari 4* beta's **Preferences** window, check the box for **Show Develop menu in menu bar**. Click on **Develop**, **User Agent**, **Firefox 3.0.5 – Mac**. This will reopen your current page under the guise of *Firefox*. All functions of the Hotmail inbox seem to work.

As a side note: I tried the **User Agent** for *Internet Explorer 8.0* beta and *Safari 4* public beta – Windows. Both were unsuccessful with Hotmail. For now, the issues with using Hotmail inside *Safari 4* beta seem to be Hotmail's. However, as they adopt the current WebKit standards and *Safari 4* comes out of beta, we expect it to work.

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Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

it, I believe, but the Mac version runs in Classic mode only. There's a free trial at **www.adobe.com/products/pagemaker** that you could experiment with. Failing that, your only option is to print to a postscript (.ps) or PDF file from *Publisher* and then import that to a more civilised DTP program, like *Pages*. You'll lose a lot of the document metadata that way though.

"Compatibility for iMovie '09 and video cameras"

Q **I have a brand-new MacBook and one of the main reasons that I purchased it was to use *iMovie*. I am currently using a Canon DC10, which uses the mini DVD format. However, when I go into *iMovie*, it doesn't seem to recognise my video camera, so I do not get the option to import my clips. I checked the list of supported video cameras and it isn't on the list. The internet seems to suggest that I can do something with a FireWire port, but because I have a new MacBook I don't think it has one.**

Ross Easterby

A The DC10 records directly to mini DVD discs in MPEG-2 format. These discs are designed to be playable in most DVD players so you can record an event and then stick the disc straight in the DVD player. They aren't designed to support video editing and, in any case, *iMovie* only recognises video sources via FireWire, which neither your MacBook nor the DC10 have. You could use *ffmpegX* (**www.ffmpegx.com**) or *Handbrake* (**http://handbrake.fr**) to rip the video stream off the mini DVD discs end then import the files to *iMovie*. But first you need to read the mini DVD discs themselves. They will disappear in a full-sized DVD slot drive, so you'll need to have an external DVD drive or another computer with a tray-loading DVD drive.

Adobe
PageMaker 7.0
Adobe

It's a very heavy hammer for such a small nut, but Pagemaker 7 is the only thing that will open MS Publisher files.

"iWeb '09 won't let me upload to the FTP server"

Q **I have recently upgraded to *iWeb '09*, mostly for the FTP uploading. However, when I set this up and test the connection it says it failed because it is 'Unable to write to server. Verify your settings and try again.' I have checked with my service provider and it says it is all correct and when it enters my details it works. I know the password is correct because if I type it in incorrectly it tells me so.**

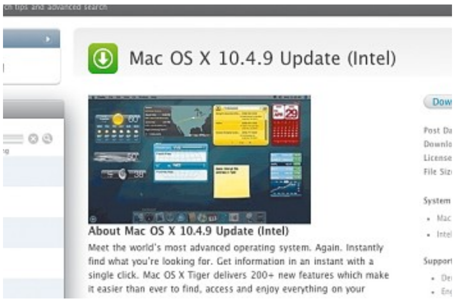
David Darrell-Lambert

A I'm sorry to say that this is a bug in *iWeb '09*, unfortunately. It seems that Apple only tested its upload facility to web servers running Linux and OS X. If your ISP uses Windows-hosted servers you may hit this problem. There is no fix at the moment so, for now, your options are to carry on using a third-party FTP program, like *CuteFTP*, or to switch to a Linux-hosted web space provider.

>> QUICK TIP

When you use Exposé, the windows can end up too small to see properly, if there are a lot of them. Holding ⌥ down will overlay the window titles on each one.

» HOW TO / Roll back to the USB driver from OS X 10.4.9

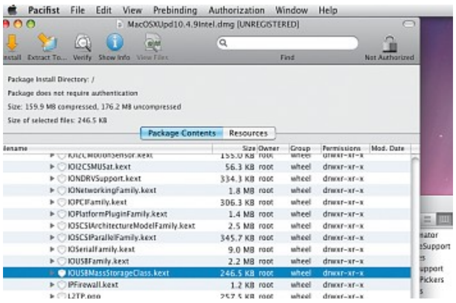

Mac OS X 10.4.9 Update (Intel)

About Mac OS X 10.4.9 Update (Intel)

Meet the world's most advanced operating system. Again. Instantly find what you're looking for. Get information in an instant with a single click. Mac OS X Tiger delivers 200+ new features which make it easier than ever to find, access and enjoy everything on your

01 Locate the driver

If you have problems getting USB devices to mount, reinstall the 10.4.9 update. Download it from **www.apple.com/support/downloads/macosx1049updateintel.html** but cancel the installer. Instead open the package file using *Pacifist* (**www.charlessoft.com**).

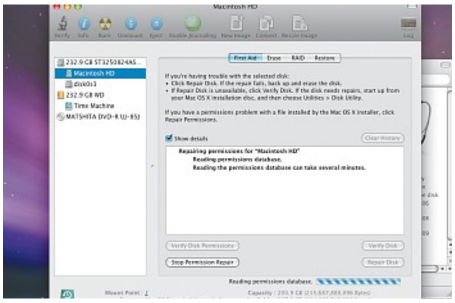

Pacifist File Edit View Prebinding Authorization Window Help
Install Extract To... Verify Show Info View Files Find Not Authorized
Package Contents Resources
MacOSXUpd10.4.9Intel.dmg [UNREGISTERED]

Package Install Directory: /
Package does not require authentication
Size: 159.9 MB compressed, 176.2 MB uncompressed
Size of selected files: 246.5 KB

ilename	Size	Owner	Group	Permissions	Mod. Date
IOI2CSMUSat.kext	56.3 KB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IONDRVSupport.kext	334.3 KB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IONetworkingFamily.kext	1.8 MB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IOPCIFamily.kext	306.3 KB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IOPlatformPluginFamily.kext	1.4 MB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IOSCSIArchitectureModelFamily.kext	2.5 MB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IOSCSIParallelFamily.kext	345.7 KB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IOSerialFamily.kext	9.0 MB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IOUSBFamily.kext	2.2 MB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IOUSBMassStorageClass.kext	246.5 KB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	
IPFirewall.kext	1.2 KB	root	wheel	drwxr-xr-x	

02 Move the file

You need to delete the file found at: **system/library/extentions IOUSBMassStorageClass.kext**. Once done, replace it with the same file that is contained within the 10.4.9 package that you have just downloaded in the previous step.



Repairing permissions for "Macintosh HD"
Reading permissions database.
Reading the permissions database can take several minutes.

Reading permissions database.

03 Repair permissions

Now you can use the *Disk Utility* application (Applications > Utilities) to repair disk permissions on your hard disk, and restart. You can try plugging your devices back in now and hopefully you will not encounter any more problems with mounting. ●

* * *

» QUICK TIP

You can customise Finder's toolbar by ⌘+⌥-clicking the little white lozenge in the top-right of the Finder Window. It brings up a palette of doodads and geejaws you can drag onto the toolbar.

"My modem needs rebooting several times a day"

Q I have just had a satellite broadband system installed by Avanti Broadband provided by the Scottish Government's Outreach programme. I previously had a satellite broadband system provided by Avonline and experienced no problems but with the Avanti system the modem (terminal) keeps locking up and requires a reboot around 5-10 times a day (yet can run for 24 hours with no problem).

I have an iMac, MacBook Pro and a new MacBook Pro all running OS X 10.5.6 with a Linksys WRT54G router and a wireless network and use *Mail* and *Firefox*. Avanti is unable to solve the problem – it has sent a query to the manufacturers of the (SatLink 1000) modem, STM.

Avanti says its tests prove that the modem is not faulty – it has downloaded the latest updates and says it must wait for a reply from the manufacturers. It also says it has at least one other Mac user with the same problem – so it obviously has made its mind up that it is Mac problem – which it has no experience of.

James Chamley

A It might not be a Mac or a modem problem. Nowadays many apps run background queries over your internet connection to check for updates and so on. These utilities mostly configure themselves at the time they are installed by inspecting your current network settings and then assume nothing will change thereafter. When you added the Avanti modem, it is possible that the built-in firewall began blocking certain ports that are needed by these applications. It's also possible that subtle bugs in either the applications on your Mac or the firmware on your broadband modem may be triggering a reset. BT Broadband modems suffered from just such a glitch around six months ago.

Since you can't roll back to your previous broadband provider, I would begin by uninstalling any third-party applications that you have and see if your connection becomes more stable. If it does you may find that the developers concerned are not in any great rush to fix a problem that affects few users, but at least you'll know what to work around until they do.

» MACFIXIT TIPS / Time Machine backup error

Some people experience issues with *Time Machine* reporting that the backup is too big for the backup volume. *Time Machine* analyzes the data to be backed up and compares it with the space left on the backup drive. Occasionally, this produces errors, despite the backup volume having space.

MacFixIt forum user 1Seymour writes: "I am running a MacBook Pro, Mac OS X 10.5.6. *Time Machine* says it wants to back up 408.2 GB from my half-full 200GB drive? What can I do to reset *Time Machine*?"

Resetting Time Machine

1.Turn off *Time Machine* in the app's Preferences.

2. Access your backup volume and delete the current backup. You will be without a backup of your data until *Time Machine* recreates your current drive's backup. Your new "latest backup" will be there for the initial backup that you are about to complete.

3. Next, access: Macintosh HD > Library > Preferences > com.apple.TimeMachine.plist and delete it.

4. In the *Time Machine* System Preferences, click on Change Disk... and then choose your backup volume.

5. Turn *Time Machine* on and let it complete its initial backup. If you have any AV software running, disable it when *TM* makes its initial backup.

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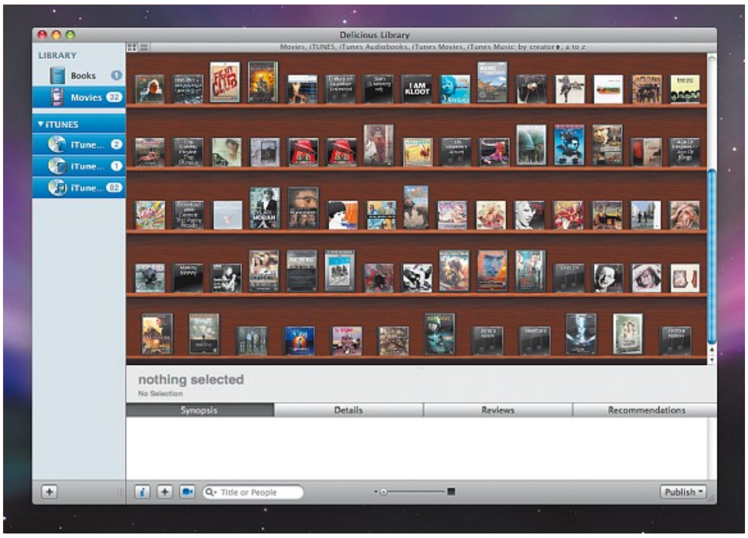
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.



Delicious Library 2 is the fastest way to catalogue all your books and DVDs.

"Is it possible to create a digital library for books?"

Q Can I use *iTunes* as a digital library? I have a vast collection of books about illustrators and illustrations (about 8,000) and would like to create a database of them in the style of *iTunes*. Creating a second library for *iTunes* with just the books in it would give me the whole database with pictures included. Or am I getting it wrong?

Fernando Sanchez-Marquez

A This would be a rather clumsy repurposing of *iTunes*, though it would probably work. A much better solution for you would be to use *Delicious Library 2* (see our tutorial on page 58) which is designed to do exactly this. And instead of manually entering in the details of each book, you can just swipe the barcode past your iSight camera.

"My USB devices have stopped mounting…"

Q I have a very mind-boggling problem for you to solve and I'll be very happy if you could work your magic. A few weeks ago I was happily transferring songs to my iPod and files to my USB memory stick. One day when I plugged my iPod into the USB port, it didn't mount. The same with my USB stick. I plug it in and it won't mount. However, when I reboot with the desired device plugged in, it seems to work fine. I have a black MacBook 2GHz with 1GB of RAM, bought in mid-2006. I am running Mac OS X 10.4.11.

Sander Nolan, Amsterdam

A There was a bug in the 10.4.10 update that broke USB detection and mounting for a lot of devices. However, it's slightly weird that you would have stuck with a version between 10.4.6 (the version installed with your MacBook) and 10.4.9 (the last version that worked). But maybe you ran *Software Update* for the first time a few weeks ago and didn't mention it to me.

You could, of course, just simply reinstall 10.4.6 from the discs and then download the combo update for 10.4.9. The only problem with this is that 10.4.11 is the last version of Tiger, so it's not just a question of limping along with 10.4.9 until 10.4.12 comes along. What you really want is some way to not install the bit of 10.4.10 that broke your USB but still keep all the other goodness from 10.4.10 and 11. Luckily, there is a way to do just that, and if you hop over to the box at the top of page 76, you'll see it all clearly explained in glorious screenshot-o-vision.

Or you could just upgrade to Leopard. That will improve your life on every possible axis. Except the financial one, because it costs £83. ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q I have moved to a new machine and decided to go down the VMWare *Fusion* route to install *Server 2003* (it was running under *Boot Camp*). I created a disk image of the old *Boot Camp* partition and would like to migrate the setup to *Fusion*. I have installed *Server 2003* under *Fusion* already and now want to move across all my *Oracle* databases etc (I am running *SAP*). I could reinstall the software and databases, but would like to do some sort of migration. Is this is possible, or do I have to reinstall everything or recreate the databases?

JonSmile Joined: 29 Oct 2005 Posts: 66

A *Fusion* should be able to use everything in your *Boot Camp* partition. You don't need to migrate it. Just start up *Fusion* and it should offer you the option to use your existing *Boot Camp* partition and Windows installation.

SwissMac Joined: 03 Apr 2005 Posts: 7927 Location: Switzerland

Q I bought a new iMac and deleted all my old backups on my Time Capsule. I then set up *Time Machine* to make backups, which it did for 145GB. But my Time Capsule is backing up a 24GB backup two to three times a day. I can't figure out why it keeps doing it when it didn't on my old iMac. If I manually tell it to backup it only backs up 32MB.

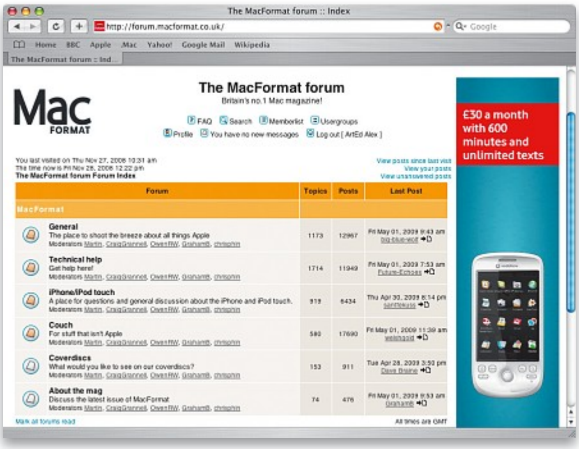
simon1966 Joined: 09 Feb 2006 Posts: 507 Location: UK (Birmingham)

A Are the preferences set to back up all drives and folders you wish to back up? There's an app called *TimeMachine Editor* that enables you to change the timings to suit.

The Recluse Joined: 09 Aug 2008 Posts: 1320 Location: Bedfordshire

A I visited the Apple Time Capsule forum and it seems the problem is I have *VMWare Fusion* on my machine and that is what is causing the large files. All I needed to do was exclude it from backing up. The file you exclude is **virtual machines** (24GB in size) and found in **Documents** folder.

simon1966 Joined: 09 Feb 2006 Posts: 507 Location: UK (Birmingham)



You last visited on Thu Nov 27, 2008 10:31 am
The time now is Fri Nov 28, 2008 12:22 pm
The MacFormat forum Forum Index

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last Post
MacFormat			
General The place to shoot the breeze about all things Apple Moderators Martin, CraigGrannell, OwenRW, GrahamB, chrisphin	1173	12967	Fri May 01, 2009 9:43 am big-blue-wolf
Technical help Get help here! Moderators Martin, CraigGrannell, OwenRW, GrahamB, chrisphin	1714	11949	Fri May 01, 2009 7:53 am Future-Echoes
iPhone/iPod touch A place for questions and general discussion about the iPhone and iPod touch. Moderators Martin, CraigGrannell, OwenRW, GrahamB, chrisphin	919	6434	Thu Apr 30, 2009 8:14 pm [illegible]
Couch For stuff that isn't Apple Moderators Martin, CraigGrannell, OwenRW, GrahamB, chrisphin	580	17690	Fri May 01, 2009 11:39 am [illegible]
Coverdiscs What would you like to see on our coverdiscs? Moderators Martin, CraigGrannell, OwenRW, GrahamB, chrisphin	153	911	Tue Apr 28, 2009 3:50 pm Dave Braine
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DA
DIGITAL ARTIST 2009

● Have you got star quality? Edric Yoeliawan wins an Intel Core i7 workstation and copy of Adobe Creative Suite 4 for creating this signature graphic for Digital Artist 2009. Enter your work to have your own star qualities recognised.

Enter Now!

Calling all digital artists

Digital Artist 2009 is a brand-new competition to discover, showcase and promote the best digital art and design out there. Whether you already work in the creative industry or are hoping to break in, we'd like to see your work.

www.digitalartistawards.com

The Awards

Enter your work in any or all of these 13 categories

- Animation
- Visual Effects
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- 3D Illustration
- 2D Illustration
- Graphic Design
- Character Design
- Concept Art
- Videogame Art
- Motion Broadcast
- Web & Interactive Design
- Ethical Design
- Rising Stars

Brought to you by: Future intel

From the makers of: computer arts ImagineFX arts projects 3D World .net

"The time has come for yet another revolution..."

COMPACT DV CAMERA GROUP TEST P107

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Reviews

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Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

Today's technology advances at such an incredible pace, it's wise to keep in touch with the latest products, even if you already own something similar. You might, for example, already have a docking station for bare hard drives, but is it as good as Newer Technology's Voyager Q, reviewed this issue? You might already have a digital camera, but are you aware of the amazing advance of the digital SLR? Check out our review of Canon's EOS 500D. If you love creating music with *GarageBand*, you might be interested in a high-end app like *Ableton Live 8*, *Clickfree Automatic Backup* might augment your Time Capsule very well and even if you already own an iPod speaker dock, you'll still want Revo's gorgeous Blok.

Then there's the products you might not even have considered before checking out our reviews. A powerstrip isn't just a powerstrip when it's a Piggy6, you might decide you need a UPS device even if it isn't the iBox, and with iVoice Pro you can use your iPod in ways that might not have previously occurred to you. It all makes for a rich and varied reviews section...

» OUR LOGOS EXPLAINED

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★
A product that receives the MacFormat Choice is the best in its class at the time of review, and a product we would be happy to spend our own money on.

Mac FORMAT Winner!
Used only in our Group Tests, the MacFormat Winner award indicates the product that we feel stands out, and warrants you spending your cash on it.

Mac FORMAT On the disc
Wherever you see this logo you'll find either test versions or useful files associated with the review on the disc, to add value to our reviews section.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>> EXTERNAL HDD DOCK

Newer Technology Voyager Q

£80 The convenient way to access data on bare SATA drives

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Newer Technology
www.newertech.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596769

SPECIFICATIONS

Disks supported: SATA 3.5-inch and 2.5-inch, up to 2TB **OS support:** 8.6 to 9.2.2, OS X 10.2 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ FireWire and eSATA support
- ⊕ Quiet operation
- ⊖ No ATA/IDE support
- ⊖ Expensive

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"You'll enjoy the quality, but not the price."

Newer Technology's Voyager Q hard drive docking station is the easy way to mount a bare hard disk without physically installing it in your computer or caddy. It's compatible with all SATA 2.5-inch and 3.5-inch drives, and boasts a wide range of connection interfaces, with USB 2.0, FireWire 400, FireWire 800 and eSATA ports on offer. This means you can use the fastest data transfer connection available, and you have a range of connectivity options if you need to use it on multiple computers (Voyager Q is compatible with Windows as well as Mac OS X 10.2 or later).

It's really easy to use, too. Just plug it in, slot in a drive and you're away – no software is required. When you need to remove the drive, the lever at the front of the unit gently disconnects it from the dock without risking damage. And because it's fanless, it's extremely quiet. Almost silent, in fact.

Mount a SATA hard drive without fitting it into your Mac.

Unfortunately, there's no support for IDE/ATA drives, which is a pity. With the standard rapidly going out of fashion, there must be a lot of redundant hard disks out there that could have been given a new lease of life as backup or long-term storage media.

The quadruple interface has taken its toll on the price (you can get a USB SATA dock for around £30), but there's no questioning the quality of the Voyager Q. It's ideal for power users, but for occasional use, a cheaper, USB-only dock would suffice.

Ian Osborne

>> iPHONE HEADSET

Macally HiFiTune

$50 (£35) Perfect for those who prefer to listen rather than talk…

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Macally
www.macally.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596779

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency response: 5-22 KHz
Impedance: 15Ω **Weight:** 17g
Extras: six sets of different-sized cups

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Comfortable to wear
- ⊕ Tremendous value
- ⊖ Meaty bass
- ⊖ Mediocre call sound quality

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Comfortable to wear, but call quality isn't great."

These may not be the prettiest earphones, but slip them in and put on your favourite song, and you'll soon forget the aesthetics.

The deep bass that is combined with reasonable treble tones make it feel as though you are using a pair of over-ear cups.

It's a shame then, that the HiFiTune's main purpose – as a headset for the iPhone – is let down by it's mediocre call quality. Folks on the other end of the line commented that our voices sounded harsh and distorted, even though the in-wire mic hangs quite low in the wire (a problem in itself as it means you can't tuck the cable inside your coat without covering the mic).

The mic unit includes a clicker button to pick up and end calls, and it also controls the iPhone's iPod, by clicking a number of times. This also works on the latest unibody MacBooks and MacBook Pros, so you can use this headset to control *iTunes*, and the microphone for *Skype* calls. The clicker unit is small, but its cylindrical shape makes it roll between your fingers as you try to find the button.

The HiFiTune is great for listening to music, though the mic is disappointing.

The in-ear cups fit snugly, and isolate a fair amount of ambient noise. However, the earphone housings themselves are ungainly and stick out, but they're very light and the three sizes of cups mean that they can be adjusted to fit all ear sizes.

The wires are coated in fabric, which gives them a durable feel, although some of the connections feel a bit flimsy.

Laurence Cable

>> DIGITAL SLR CAMERA

Canon EOS 500D

£763 (body only) Will Canon's latest SLR keep Nikon and Sony at bay?

Canon
EOS
500D
CANON ZOOM LENS EF-S 18-55mm 1:3.5-5.6 IS
IMAGE STABILIZER
CANON INC.
ø58mm

The 500D is perfect if you are also interested in HD video recording.

Keen amateurs who are looking to buy a Canon SLR will be spoilt for choice at the moment. The company is currently fielding five models before you even hit its pro range. The latest addition to this crowded line-up is the 500D, which is designed to sit between the more basic 450D, and the fast and sturdy 40D and 50D.

The 500D sports a 15.1-megapixel sensor that's very similar to the one in the higher-end 50D, and more significantly, it has the ability to shoot and record HD video. Let's begin with the still camera features. A few extra million pixels over the 450D's doesn't make a huge difference, to be honest, although it does give more flexibility when it comes to printing your pictures off to a larger size or cropping right into an image. More noteworthy is the 500D's higher ISO (light sensitivity range). This goes up to 3200, giving you plenty of options for flash-free shooting in low light, or selecting higher shutter speeds. What's even better is that image noise is well controlled throughout the range, and only becomes a real headache over ISO 1200. This is quite a breakthrough, and should give arch-rival Nikon cause for concern.

> *"The higher ISO gives you options for flash-free shooting in low light, or selecting higher shutter speeds"*

Ease of use

The 500D is nicer to use than the 450D, and it inherits the pin-sharp, three-inch LCD that can be found on the high-end 5D Mark II. The mode dials and buttons are noticeably sturdier and more intuitive, while an integrated dust-removal system will keep the sensor free of specks. Other welcome additions to this model include a beefed-up **Auto Lighting Optimizer** and **Peripheral Illumination Correction**, which brightens the corners of an image to avoid vignetting distortion.

So what about the new HD video recording? It's certainly very useful to be able to record up to 4GB of crisp footage. The quality level maxes out at 1,920x1,080 at 20 frames per second, which is below that offered by the 5D Mark II, but it's still great to watch, nonetheless. Accessing the HD video recording is very easy via the new mode dial, and it works seamlessly with Canon's **Live View** feature on the rear LCD. However, if you do intend to shoot lots of footage to go with your stills, be aware that you're stuck with the rather rudimentary built-in mic – there's no external mic socket.

Returning to stills, another reason for Mac users to consider the 500D over other similar offerings from Nikon or Sony is the quality of the software. Canon's *Digital Photo Professional* has just been upgraded, and it's one of the best free RAW editing tools to be ported to the Mac.

The video pays

The biggest drawback to the 500D is the price. You're paying for HD video recording, so if video's not your thing, consider the sub-£500 450D, or the speedy 40D/50D. But if you're happy to pay for the privilege of high-quality movies, this EOS is a great buy.

Geoff Harris

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Canon
www.canon.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596771

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 4,752x3,168, **Lens:** Canon EF/EFS mount **Electronic viewfinder:** Eyecup Ef **Supported file formats:** JPEG, RAW **Recording formats:** MOV (Video: H.264, Sound: Linear PCM) Supported memory card formats: SD, SDHC **Dimensions:** 12.9x9.8x 6.2cm **Weight:** Approx. 480g (body)

PROS & CONS

- + 15.1-megapixel sensor
- + HD video recording
- + Increased ISO range
- + Colourful 3-inch LCD
- – HD video means premium price
- – No external mic socket for video

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Be sure you really need the HD features on this otherwise excellent new camera before parting with your cash."

Canon's done a great job squeezing quality still and video image specs into a sturdy yet compact body.

MENU
DISP.
Canon
1/125
F5.6
ISO 400
P
-2..1..0..1..:2
AWB
ONE SHOT
SET Q
90
Av
WB
SET
AF

>> UPS DEVICE

iDowell iBox

£160 It might be attractive enough to show off, but what about its connections?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: iDowell
www.idowell.eu
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/593626

SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions: 17.5x14x23 cm
Weight: 5.8 Kg
Operating temperature: 0-40 °C

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Protects against power cuts
- ⊕ Great-looking device
- ⊖ Limited connections
- ⊖ Expensive

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"Great looking, but expensive for what it is."

The UPS (or, to give it its full title – uninterruptible power supply) isn't the most exciting device you can connect to your Mac, but it performs a useful function. If your mains electricity supply cuts out, the UPS takes over and powers your equipment from its own battery. When the mains power fails the iBox kicks in, offering up to 20 minutes of emergency power. A red light and beeping sound alert you to the problem and this beep changes tone when emergency power is low, so you know that it's definitely time to save your work.

If you connect it to your Mac via USB, you can configure Energy Saver in *System Preferences* to put your Mac to sleep or shut down completely after a set time running on UPS.

The iBox isn't generous with its connectors though. You can only connect two devices via kettle leads out of the back. While the iBox is much better looking than most UPS systems it doesn't really need to be on view on your desk, and being restricted to two kettle lead-powered devices means you can't connect your peripherals along with your computer. This can be problematic if you use an external hard drive, for example. So instead, why not get a UPS that offers far more sockets and takes three-pin plugs so you can also connect anything electrical? You'd also save almost half the asking price of an iBox too, so shop around.

Ian Osborne

It might look the part, but it's not without some irksome restrictions.

>> HOME NETWORKING

Solwise Piggy6

£72 A versatile and easy-to-use HomePlug network device

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Solwise
www.solwise.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/593629

SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions: 11x15x15cm **Power sockets:** 6 **Ethernet ports:** 3 **Maximum data transfer:** 200Mbps

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Affordable
- ⊕ Easy to set up
- ⊕ 3 Ethernet ports
- ⊖ Requires additional HomePlug

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"The Piggy6 is a great for a small network."

The Piggy6 may not be the prettiest product we've seen, but this multi-sided slab of plastic is a useful device for anyone that wants to set up a small network at home or in their office.

At first glance, it looks like a six-plug mains power strip – albeit a hexagonal one. The neat part, though, is that the Piggy6 also works as a HomePlug networking device that allows you to set up a network using all your existing electrical wiring, rather than having to trail Ethernet cables around from room to room.

The Ethernet ports allow you to connect three computers to the device and send data across your network via it. This means that you've got an all-in-one device that provides power and connectivity to multiple computers and other devices all at once.

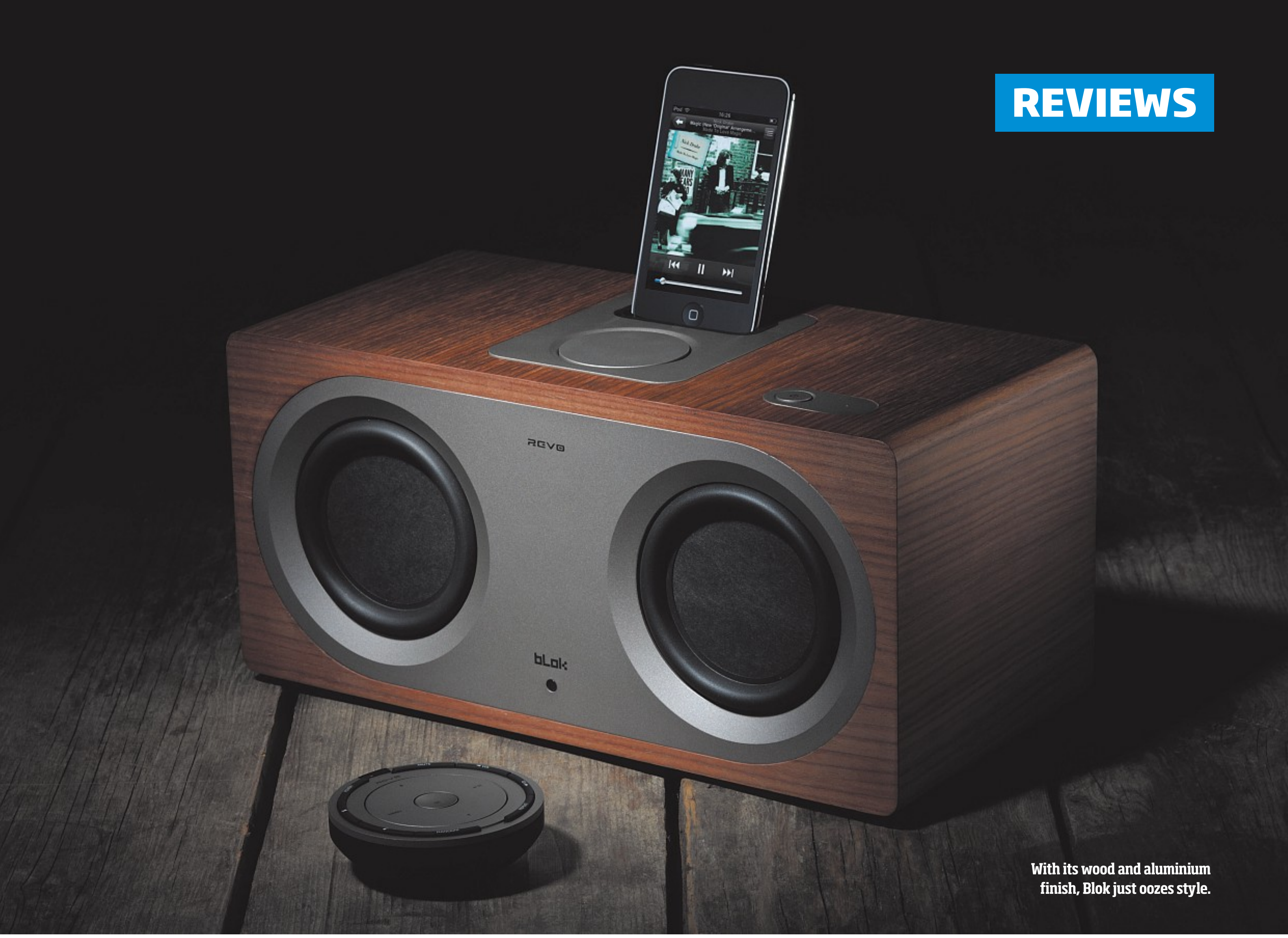
You'll need to have one other HomePlug unit connected to your broadband router if you want to connect your network to the internet, but it's worth it.

The HomePlug network connection isn't as fast as you can get from an all-Ethernet network – it has a maximum data transfer speed of 200Mbits per second, compared to the gigabit (1,000Mbps) speeds available with Ethernet, but that should be adequate.

The convenience of this device and its ability to be set up in minutes makes it a bargain for those who want to create a small network with the least fuss.

Cliff Joseph

The Piggy6 combines main power supply with network connectivity.



With its wood and aluminium finish, Blok just oozes style.

>> iPOD SPEAKER DOCK

Revo Blok

£195 Could this be the best-looking iPod dock yet?

> *"There are no flashing lights… It doesn't need to shout to tell you how good it is"*

Revo's gorgeous new iPod docking station is simply called the Blok. And as well as looking the part, it sounds it too, combining breathtaking aesthetics with a rich, warm tone.

Revo has gone all out to make the Blok the most attractive speaker set we've seen for a long time. Nothing about it looks cheap or nasty, or even purely functional. With its machined aluminium insets and American walnut or black oak-veneered body, it will turn heads. On-device controls are kept to a minimum, with the only interactive elements being the iPod dock itself (for which a range of adaptors are included), a volume control and the power button. There are no flashing lights here either. The Blok doesn't need to shout to tell you how good it is. And then there's the controller. Boasting a circular design that feels just right in the hand and is obviously inspired by the iPod's click wheel design, there's no mistaking it for your TV remote.

Audio-wise, the Blok gives you a natural sound. The wooden construction is clearly not just for aesthetics. Wholesome and pure, there's none of the tinniness or distortion that plagues lesser speaker systems. It comes with just two speakers of 20W each, so there are more powerful devices out there, but it has sufficient power to fill a decent-sized room. Other than your iPod's own equaliser there's no way of adjusting the bass or treble levels, though it sounds great on its default setting. Our only significant criticism is it's not fully iPhone compatible, forcing you to switch to Airport Mode to prevent interference.

At a fiver short of £200, the Revo Blok is not for those on a budget. Nor is it for the hardcore audiophile who likes lots of buttons to press and enough power to fill a football stadium. But by combining luxury and convenience in a handsome case, it gets our vote of confidence.

Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Revo Tech Ltd
www.revo.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/593649

SPECIFICATIONS

Inputs: All recent iPod models, aux
Dimensions: 31.6x14.8x15.3cm
Weight: Just under 2kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Rich, deep sound
- ⊕ Excellent hand controller
- ⊖ Not for iPhone
- ⊖ Can't sync iPod with Mac

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A gorgeous looking iPod speaker dock."

>>PORTABLE BACKUP DRIVE

Clickfree Automatic Backup

£115 Back up all your data the hassle-free way

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Clickfree
www.gocliczskfree.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596762

SPECIFICATIONS

Hard disk form factor: 2.5-inch
Dimensions: 11.5x7.5x1.7cm
Weight: 165g **Capacity:** 250GB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Spectacularly easy to use
- ⊕ Backs up external drives
- ⊖ Lacks configurability
- ⊖ Expensive given drive's capacity

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A really simple backup solution for data files."

Clickfree's Automatic Backup 250GB is a simple way to back up your digital data files, though it won't clone your entire hard drive or back up applications. Boasting a pocket-sized form factor, this plug-and-play device works on any Mac running Leopard, with no software installation necessary.

When you first connect it, the drive's built-in software scans for and backs up more than 400 types of data file, including photos, music files, emails, text documents, movies and more. Subsequent backups are incremental.

You can decline to back up certain files by unchecking categories such as 'photos' or 'music'. Unfortunately, you can't narrow the backups within these categories, eg. backing up JPEGs but not TIFs. Multiple machine and/or user accounts can be backed up on the same drive, with files kept separate for each user. However, they're not protected in any way. Everyone using the backup drive has unrestricted access to every file on it, regardless of permissions. This is worth bearing in mind if you need to keep your files private.

clickfree
Automatic Backup
Multi-PC

Could this be the most straightforward backup solution ever?

A very welcome feature is the option to back up external HDDs or flash drives as well as your main hard drive.

If you only need to back up one Mac, you might be better off investing in a large-capacity external hard drive and using it with *Time Machine*. But if you're looking for a simple way to back up your digital data, Clickfree Automatic Backup 250GB is well worth a whirl.
Ian Osborne

>>VIDEO ENCODING CO-PROCESSOR

Elgato Turbo.264 HD

£138 Fast video encoding for Apple TV and more, with editing from AVCHD camcorders

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Elgato
www.elgato.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596751

SPECIFICATIONS

Output presets: iPod high, iPod standard, iPhone, Sony PSP, YouTube (+HD), HD 720p, HD 1080p

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Super-fast H.264 encoding
- ⊕ Export to QuickTime-aware apps
- ⊖ No longer supports PowerPC
- ⊖ Substantial investment

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A huge timesaver, and great for quick edits."

Elgato's original Turbo.264 impressed everyone. Like this new model, it was a small USB dongle containing a dedicated co-processor for encoding video into the H.264 format that has become the standard for iPods, the Apple TV, Blu-ray, and modern, flash storage-based DV cameras. It only did standard-definition, however, and in the couple of years since its launch, high-definition (HD) has become more popular.

Step forward, then, the Turbo.264 HD, a version that will encode all the way to full 1080p HD. "But I've got a Mac Pro," you think, you lucky swine. Doesn't matter; using *Handbrake*, our quad-core 2.66GHz Mac Pro encoded a 43-minute, 720p movie in almost real time, but the Turbo.264 HD slashed that encoding time to just over 18 minutes. Best of all, the Mac Pro's processors were maxed out during the *Handbrake* encode, while the Turbo.264 HD's shouldering of much of the grunt-work left half the capacity free during its encode, letting you get on with other stuff.

elgato turbo.264 HD

It's slim enough not to block adjacent USB ports, but an extension cable is included.

The software is good; just drop in your source video files – there is tons of supported formats – pick the output type and click **Start**. You can create your own presets, and it will add the resulting video either to *iTunes* or upload it directly to YouTube for you. It works directly with AVCHD camcorders, too, letting you view, trim, and join movies together quickly and efficiently.
Christopher Phin

Watch your iPod videos without straining your eyes on its small screen.

>> WIDESCREEN 3D VIDEO VIEWER

Vuzix iWear AV310

£180 Is this the last word in how we watch our movies, or will the novelty soon wear off?

To put it in a nutshell, iWear AV310 Widescreen is a wearable video display with twin 428 x 240 widescreen LCDs. Worn like normal glasses, it gives you an extra-entertaining home cinema experience. Audio is handled by a couple of dangling earbuds, and it's powered by a standard AA battery, which is useful if you run out of juice half way through. It's primarily designed for use with mobile video devices (connectors for iPod/iPhones and Nokia handsets are included), but with a little effort, you can connect it to most things that offer a video output. You might have to buy an adaptor or two, though.

In a head-to-head fight with the Carl Zeiss Cinemizer we reviewed in Issue 194, they fought each other to a bloody draw. The Cinemizer offered better picture clarity and a richer, more vibrant image than the iWear, which were a little grainy and washed out in comparison. Yet the iWear scores higher on audio, a widescreen-aspect ratio option and better isolation, assuming you invest in an optional Light Shield. This is a rubber mask that fits over the iWear's screen and does a fair job of blocking out the outside world, but it costs £13 extra. iWear wins out on price, being more than £100 cheaper, even after you've forked out for the Light Shield.

> *"In a head-to-head fight with the Cinemizer they fought each other to a bloody draw"*

iWear AV310 Widescreen is capable of displaying 3D video. We doubt you'd get the chance to use this feature often, and in our tests it proved abysmal in 3D, even with Vuzix's own demo movie.

Vuzix iWear AV310 Widescreen is certainly fun and definitely more comfortable than watching a two-hour movie on a handheld video screen. Yet comparisons with competitors aside, it's not cheap at £180. Before investing in one, ask yourself if it's something you'll use often enough to justify the price. As it stands though, the iWear is well made and great for long journeys.
Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Vuzix Corporation
www.vuzix.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596723

SPECIFICATIONS

Screens: Twin high-res 428x240 widescreen (WQVGA) **Aspect ratio:** 16:9 widescreen and standard 4:3

PROS & CONS

+ Great fun
+ Cinema on the move
– Light Shield should be included
– Expensive

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Great fun to experience, and well made, too"

>> LAPTOP COVER

Macally BookShell

£14 www.macally-europe.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595134

01 With a product as beautiful as Apple's aluminium MacBook, you might wonder why you'd want to cover it with a velvet-lined, imitation-leather hard shell. But what about situations where you might get it scratched? Or maybe you don't want to advertise the fact that you're using an expensive Apple laptop?

Macally's BookShell is a quality piece of kit. It fits snugly, looks great and doesn't block access to your ports and optical drive. It can take little knocks and wipes clean easily enough. A great piece of kit.
Ian Osborne

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"A stylish and attractive cover for your aluminium MacBook."

>> TRAVEL MOUSE

Genius Traveler 900

£25 www.geniusnet.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595148

02 This 2.4GHz notebook optical mouse is perfect for small hands or those who like to use a mouse with their fingertips. Its USB wireless receiver is also small, so you can leave it in your laptop. Alternatively, there's a space for it inside the mouse.

But the best thing about the Traveler 900 is its set of scrolling features. There's a couple of 'turbo scrolling' buttons that let you scroll up or down at a faster pace, making it easy to pick through large documents or web pages. A great idea well implemented.
Ian Osborne

VERDICT
★★★★½
"Handy scrolling, a comfortable design and a great price."

>> VOICE RECORDER

Macally iVoicePro

£32 www.macally-europe.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595155

03 This device will turn your recent iPod or nano into a voice recorder. Insert it into your iPod's dock connector and a **Voice Memos** menu option appears. You can now use your iPod like a dictaphone. Or, record from an external audio device using iVoicePro's headphone socket. Transfer voice memos to your Mac using USB, or listen through iVoicePro's in-built speaker.

iVoicePro is just the thing for recording interviews, lectures and more. It's a little pricey but a useful addition to your accessories bag.
Ian Osborne

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"The versatile iVoicePro gives your iPod great new features."

>> HEADPHONES

c-Jays Elastic Headphones

£80 www.jaysearphones.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595170

04 With your foldaway stereo headphones you get a carry bag, aircraft adaptor, 6.3mm plug, cable extension, stereo splitter and three sets of foam cushions. These pads affect the mix, with the smallest pads giving the most bass and the medium versions offering a very rounded performance. However, the largest pads choke the bass far too much.

Designed with portable players in mind, they offer a great overall sound, but they produce overspill for those around you. Best not use them on the bus…
Ian Osborne

VERDICT
★★★½☆
"Solid earphones with good sound, but too much overspill."

Digital Camera Photographer of the Year 2009

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Don't miss out - register now!

Kah Kit Yoong

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PHOTO COMPETITION

www.poty2009.com

In association with

Telegraph.co.uk skyARTS The Royal Photographic Society

» DOCUMENT AUTHORING TOOL

Kedisoft MacSnapper 1.0.4

$49 (£33) Creating docs is a breeze with MacSnapper, but setting up templates is tough

CONTACTS

Developer: Kedisoft
www.kedisoft.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596732

SPECIFICATIONS

OS: OS X 10.5.5

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Very fast, easy authoring
- ⊕ Built-in screenshot tools
- ⊖ Editing isn't WYSIWYG
- ⊖ Creating templates is complex

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

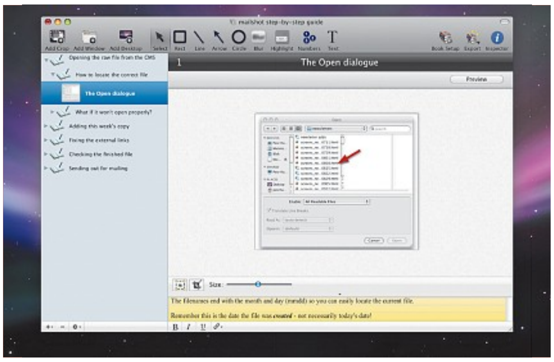
"Dashing off tutorial-style documents is very easy, but awkward templates let it down."

For those who regularly need to create templated, screenshot-based manuals or tutorials for print, PDF or web distribution, this app can make the task fast and easy. If your ambitions are more complex, trying to force *MacSnapper* to do a job it wasn't designed for leads to frustration.

Creating new sections and pages (Lessons and Sub Lessons in *MacSnapper* parlance), taking and placing screenshots or saved images, adding simple graphics, and entering text are all straightforward, with most things you need available on the toolbar.

Unfortunately, you're not working in WYSIWYG (you need to switch to Preview mode), but there are a few nice ideas to speed up your work, such as a slider for resizing images. You can export in HTML, PDF and WordPress formats.

Designing templates is a complex task requiring knowledge of HTML and XML. The user lacking those skills will be stuck with the limitations of *MacSnapper*'s templates. Modifying the templates is too fiddly to be worthwhile for single projects.


mailshot step-by-step guide
Add Crop
Add Window
Add Desktop
Select
Rect
Line
Arrow
Circle
Blur
Highlight
Numbers
Text
Book Setup
Export
Inspector
Opening the raw file from the CMS
How to locate the correct file
The Open dialogue
What if it won't open properly?
Adding this week's copy
Fixing the external links
Checking the finished file
Sending out for mailing
1
The Open dialogue
Preview
Size:

The filenames end with the month and day (mmdd) so you can easily locate the current file.

Remember this is the date the file was *created* - not necessarily today's date!

It's very easy to add basic-but-useful graphics such as arrows.

MacSnapper comes into its own when you want to produce many image-based documents with the same basic design, or perhaps have one member of a group fix the design then let others generate the content. In these instances, *MacSnapper*'s ease of use may justify the relatively high price for what is a very basic application.

Barnaby Page

» ACTIVITY MONITORING UTILITY

Spector Pro Mac 2009

$100 (£70) Spector Pro is an effective tool, but accessing reports may pose problems

CONTACTS

Developer: SpectorSoft
www.spectorsoft.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596749

SPECIFICATIONS

OS: OS X 10.4.1
Hard disk space: 5-20MB per day

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Accurate records of activity
- ⊕ Hidden from non-technical users
- ⊖ Very flexible configuration
- ⊖ Reports can't be read remotely

VERDICT

★★★★☆

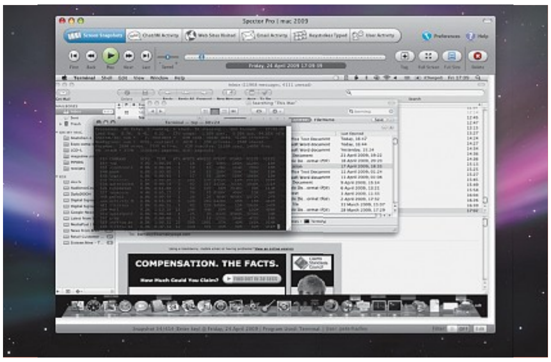
"Spector Pro is the best application of its kind, not bad at all!"

SpectorSoft's *Spector Pro Mac 2009* records pretty much everything that a Mac user does, and hides this info in a secret place to be revealed only to you.

It runs inobtrusively, with an icon in the menu bar reminding the user that it's watching, or in stealth mode. Among the data it records are snapshots of what's on-screen at designated intervals, the content of chat and IM sessions (though it can't see through SSL/TLS encryption), websites visited, email activity and all keystrokes.

These give a detailed picture of what a user was doing, so anyone planning to use the app to monitor kids or employees, faces a choice of wading through immense quantities of data, or skimming through it at the risk of missing some undesirable activity.

Spector Pro offers flexible configuration options, and we found its recording accurate. And while we managed to halt it through a little-known utility, it remained hidden from tools like *Activity Monitor*. Also, forum tips for evading *Spector Pro* are now ineffective.


Spector Pro | mac 2009
Screen Snapshots
Chat/IM Activity
Web Sites Visited
Email Activity
Keystrokes Typed
User Activity
Preferences
Help
COMPENSATION. THE FACTS.
How Much Could You Claim?

You decide how often Spector Pro should record what's on-screen.

Unfortunately, you need to access the machine on which *Spector Pro* is installed in order to read its reports (or pay another $100 to have them emailed over using SpectorSoft's *eBlaster*). This makes surreptitious monitoring inconvenient, so it may be that its real value is as a deterrent rather than an informant.

Barnaby Page

>> ONLINE BACKUP

Carbonite

$55 (£37) per year An ultra-secure remote backup to rival Time Machine

We like *Time Machine*, the friendly, zero-config backup system built into version 10.5 of the Mac operating system; it makes it easy to 'go back in time' and find an earlier version of a file, or rescue something that you've deleted. And we like options such as *SuperDuper* and *CarbonCopyCloner*, where you can copy your hard disk, system intact, to another that you can boot from if your main disk dies.

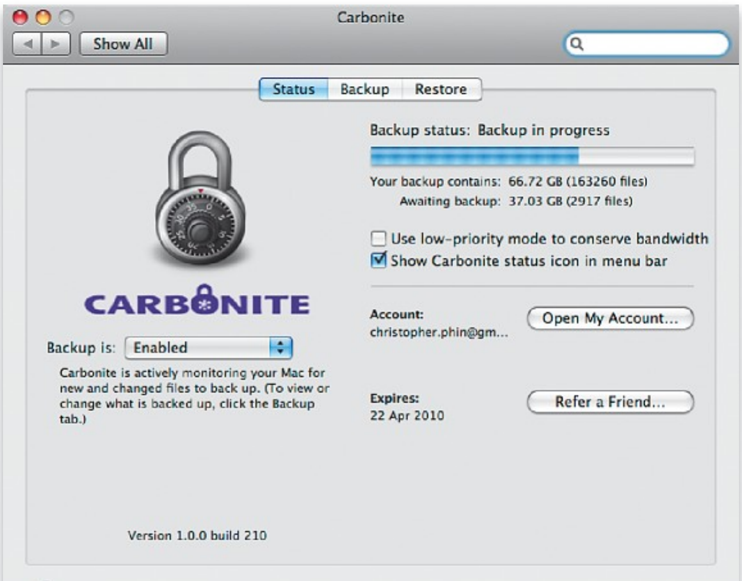
Both systems, however, are usually used locally. That is, even if you set your target volume as a network-attached storage device such as a Time Capsule, you're still backing up your data to another disk that's kept at the same location as the thing you're backing up. While this helps guard against data loss caused by failures or corruption of the hard disk inside your Mac – and that's all you're doing; the backup could fail too, so you're just reducing risk with each backup – it doesn't help if there's a flood, fire or theft…

A solution is to back everything up over the internet to a completely different location. While this is limited by your internet connection's upload speed it does mean it's safe from local disasters. The service we're reviewing here, *Carbonite*, has been getting very positive feedback from the PC community, so we were keen to see how the Mac version performed.

"The initial backup can take an age, and check your ISP's bandwidth cap… but it's still a very secure system"

Affordable and reliable

In general, we're impressed. Unlike many companies that have developed a PC application and then gone on to make a Mac version, the developers genuinely seem to have 'got' the Mac. The installation is a breeze, and the service itself is configured from a well-behaved *System Preferences* pane. There's an optional menu bar icon, but all the work is done behind the scenes by a background process.


Carbonite
Show All
Status
Backup
Restore
CARBONITE
Open My Account…
Refer a Friend…
Carbonite Help & Support

Backup status: Backup in progress

Your backup contains: 66.72 GB (163260 files)
Awaiting backup: 37.03 GB (2917 files)

☐ Use low-priority mode to conserve bandwidth
☑ Show Carbonite status icon in menu bar

Account: christopher.phin@gm…

Expires: 22 Apr 2010

Backup is: Enabled

Carbonite is actively monitoring your Mac for new and changed files to back up. (To view or change what is backed up, click the Backup tab.)

Version 1.0.0 build 210

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

The initial backup depends on your upload speed; this is three weeks in and we're still going!

When we tested it, this daemon did cause some problems, often gobbling up half the processor of our 2.66GHz Core 2 Duo MacBook Pro for minutes at a time for no reason we could discern. It didn't cause slowdowns on such a meaty machine; the worst side-effect was reduced battery life. Carbonite is working on an update.

Picking what to back up is simple; go for the easy option and back up all user folders, or navigate through a column-view, toggling files and folders' backup status. Restoring is also easy; do the whole lot or choose individual files and folders.

The initial backup can take an age, and check to make sure you don't fall foul of your ISP's bandwidth cap, but it's still a very secure system. Data is encrypted, and the servers promise to be rock-solid. The optional remote access system isn't that sophisticated, but at less than £40 a year for unlimited automatic backup, it's great.

Christopher Phin

CONTACTS

Developer: Carbonite
www.carbonite.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596753

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: Intel processor
OS: Mac OS X 10.4
Other: broadband

PROS & CONS

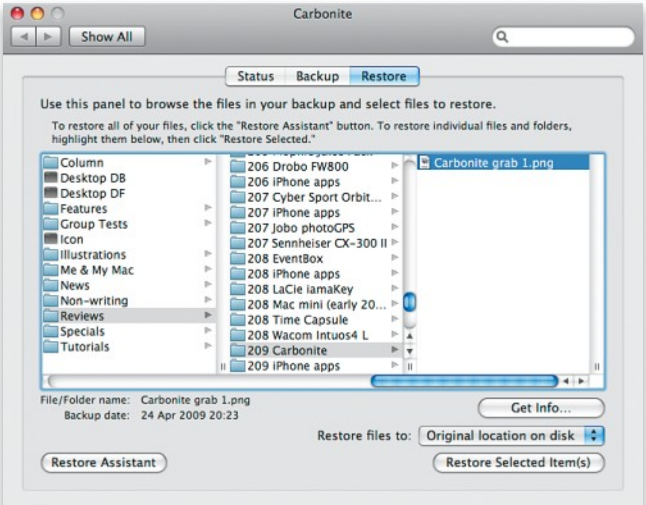
- ⊕ Great value
- ⊕ Easy, Mac-like experience
- ⊕ Stealth mode to free bandwidth
- ⊖ Doesn't back up external disks
- ⊖ No versioning in Mac edition
- ⊖ Occasionally greedy with CPU

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It works out at only 10p a day for unlimited, secure, off-site backup; where do we sign?"

The Carbonite interface is clean and Mac-like; this manual restore window is a complicated as it gets.


Carbonite
Show All
Status
Backup
Restore
Column
Desktop DB
Desktop DF
Features
Group Tests
Icon
Illustrations
Me & My Mac
News
Non-writing
Reviews
Specials
Tutorials
206 Drobo FW800
206 iPhone apps
207 Cyber Sport Orbit…
207 iPhone apps
207 Jobo photoGPS
207 Sennheiser CX-300 II
208 EventBox
208 iPhone apps
208 LaCie iamaKey
208 Mac mini (early 20…
208 Time Capsule
208 Wacom Intuos4 L
209 Carbonite
209 iPhone apps
Carbonite grab 1.png
Get Info…
Restore Assistant
Restore Selected Item(s)
Carbonite Help & Support

Use this panel to browse the files in your backup and select files to restore.

To restore all of your files, click the "Restore Assistant" button. To restore individual files and folders, highlight them below, then click "Restore Selected."

File/Folder name: Carbonite grab 1.png
Backup date: 24 Apr 2009 20:23

Restore files to: Original location on disk

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

>> LIVE VIDEO PRODUCTION SOFTWARE

BoinxTV 1.2

$199 (£136) Is it possible for one app to turn your Mac into a fully fledged TV studio?

CONTACTS

Developer: Boinx
www.boinx.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar/com/595116

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: G5 or Intel-based Mac **RAM:** 2GB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5.5, NVIDIA or ATI graphics card, QuickTime 7.5.5 or higher

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Informative user interface
- ⊕ Flexible layers system
- ⊕ Desktop screencasting
- ⊖ Fiddly camera switching
- ⊖ Misleading features list
- ⊖ Needs additional software

VERDICT

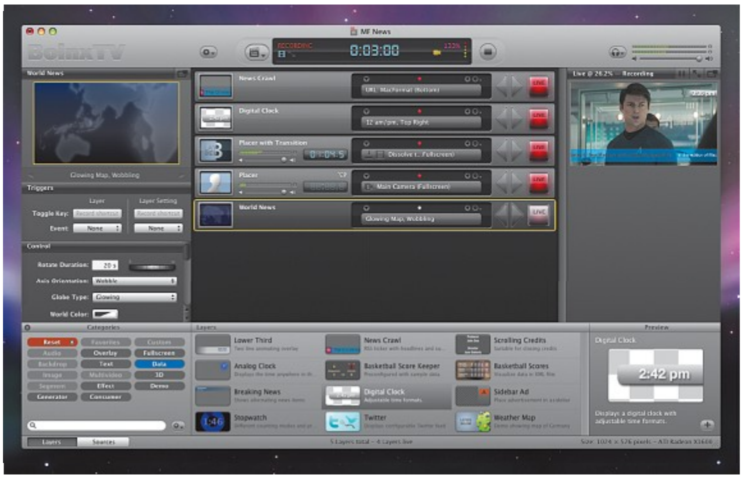
★★★½☆

"The more you put into BoinxTV, the more you'll get out of it, but you may have to put a lot in..."

This program has lofty ambitions for itself. Intending to eliminate the need for post-production, it can handle multiple camera feeds and graphic overlays like RSS tickers, weather maps and drawing tools, all in a live output. The immediate caveat is that it won't output HD video or take HDV cameras as a source without downscaling in-camera. Source recognition was excellent, though, and completely without drama.

Exporting your video to disk is reasonably speedy (six minutes for a 30-minute PAL recording), but the native *QuickTime* transcoding is, predictably, not. The shamelessly *iLife*-esque interface is user-friendly to a fault. Information like the rendering load, audio levels, recording run time and previews of numerous video feeds is all available at a glance.

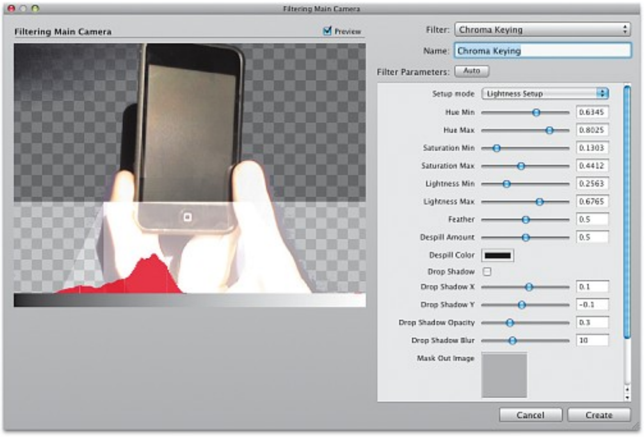
The left side of the screen shows your options for a selected layer and it's here you find things like Chroma Keying, as well as the ability to change the image in graphic overlays, and the option to switch between multiple cameras.



BoinxTV's layout lets you see your active and dormant layers next to the video previews.

Familiar layers

To keep things familiar, *BoinxTV* is based around layers. Higher layers take priority, but can be turned on and off with big, satisfying Live buttons. Do you want to show a recorded film instead of your presenter? Import the video and place it in a layer above the presenter's. When you're ready to play it, just hit the red button. It will then automatically switch back to the lower layer when it's finished. New graphics layers can be created in Quartz Composer and imported into the program to increase the already comprehensive choices.



Filter: Chroma Keying
Name: Chroma Keying
Filter Parameters: Auto
Setup mode: Lightness Setup
Hue Min: 0.6345
Hue Max: 0.8025
Saturation Min: 0.1303
Saturation Max: 0.4412
Lightness Min: 0.2563
Lightness Max: 0.6765
Feather: 0.5
Despill Amount: 0.5
Despill Color
Drop Shadow ☐
Drop Shadow X: 0.1
Drop Shadow Y: -0.1
Drop Shadow Opacity: 0.3
Drop Shadow Blur: 10
Mask Out Image

Chroma Keying is simple to use, but still has advanced options if you want to take it one stage further.

> *"It can show screencasts from any part of your Desktop... show your audience any video, website or OS X tip you like"*

Our only disappointment with *BoinxTV*'s interface is that camera switching is stuck as small buttons at the bottom of a long list. On a live show, you really want big important buttons that can be moved next to the camera previews. It's less of an issue on a 30-inch Cinema Display than on a MacBook Pro, but it's actually a surprisingly large oversight. Sadly, it's not the only one.

Boinx loudly champions the ability to stream live to the internet, but on closer inspection you need *GrabberRaster* (a further £68) to screencast your preview video window and a streaming service to do it. Not exactly a built-in feature.

The touted support for Elgato's *Turbo.264 HD* (reviewed on page 84) is hardly seamless either – it requires turning off the built-in transcoder and running a custom AppleScript. Also advertised is the ability to import video from *Skype* and *iChat* straight into your broadcast. In fact, *BoinxTV* can show screencasts from any part of your Desktop. This is a fantastic feature. You could show your audience any video, website or OS X tip you like if you have an extended Desktop. They're actually drastically underselling it. It's niggles like these that make us start to question *BoinxTV*'s value, especially when you'd need to pay for *GrabberRaster* to stream live, and if you want pre-recorded segments you'd need something like *Final Cut Express*.

BoinxTV does what it does very well, but some bizarre decisions and a need for further software harm it as a budget proposition.

Matthew Bolton

>> ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

MacFreelance

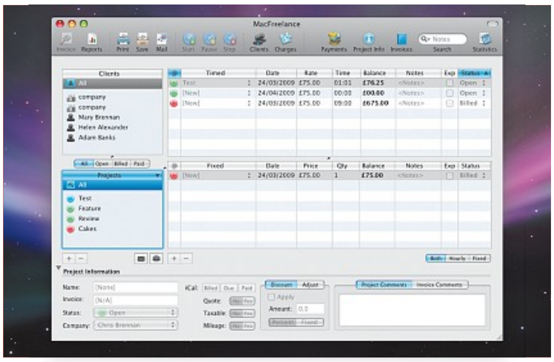
£39 The software for small businesses that takes the pain out of accounting

This accounting app is designed to integrate seamlessly with *iCal* and *Address Book* meaning that you can get up and running with your invoicing and keep track of when to expect payments quickly.

MacFreelance manages everything in a single window giving you quick access to its features. Clients, projects, invoicing and expenses can be easily tracked. Each client or project can have individually tailored options such as unique numbering or code identifiers. If you run multiple businesses you can group your clients together so that you definitely bill them from the right account.

MacFreelance has a lot of features and, perhaps, that's one of its shortcomings. We found that it took a while to remember exactly how to use it. If you're running a business time is money and the longer it takes to learn an app the less time you have to actually do some work.

That said, the integration with *iCal* and *Address Book* is good and there are more complicated applications out there. There's a great deal that's good in this application; we like the number of reports you can run to track and the fact that there's support for multiple currencies, if you need it. It's also refreshingly UK based in its options.



The interface has some quirks, but it's still a very capable application.

For £39 it offers a lot, getting started might take a while, but in the long run it will make for a very robust invoicing and expense-tracking solution.
Christopher Brennan

CONTACTS

Developer: Macware
www.macwareinc.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595118

SPECIFICATIONS

RAM: 256MB RAM **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4 **Hard disk space:** 25MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Integration with Address Book
- ⊕ Manage multiple businesses
- ⊖ A touch difficult to learn
- ⊖ Invoice design could be easier

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's a bargain and makes the accounting process a lot less painful."

>> VECTOR-BASED DESIGN SOFTWARE

LogoDesign Studio Pro

£20 Logo design software with built-in templates and objects to make illustration simple

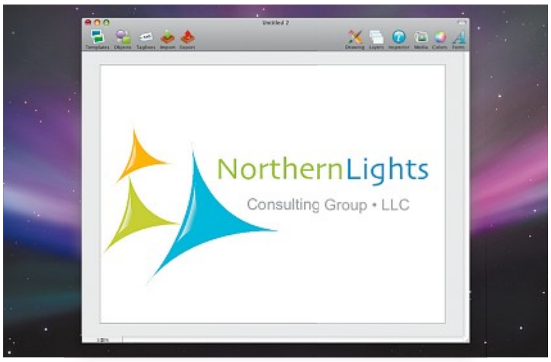
The problem for many applications that claim to make something easy is that some things are just hard no matter how much you dress up the task. *LogoDesign Studio Pro* is one such application. The name gives away its primary function.

With the advent of Web 2.0 it seems that a funky and modern company logo is almost as important as the product itself. *LogoDesign Studio Pro* is supposed to take the trouble out of this for you. This vector-based design tool is quite advanced with layer support and more than 100 filters and effects. It's suitable for print and web too.

The canvas and working toolbar is easy to pick up, but the drawing tools window does look a bit basic. Even the least savvy user will get to grips with it. There are a number of pre-designed templates and elements as well as tag lines. Putting the elements together is simple.

However, *LogoDesign Studio Pro* won't make you a designer, but it will make putting some items on a page and creating something passable easy, but that's about it. Whether you need something more than that defines whether this application is worth it.

Overall, we were very impressed by the quality of the designs that the program allowed us to produce. For £20 it's hardly going to break the bank either. You'll still need an eye for quality design to make the most of it though.
Christopher Brennan



The interface is simple to grasp and results can be very good.

CONTACTS

Developer: Macware
www.macwareinc.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595128

SPECIFICATIONS

RAM: 650MB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4 **Hard disk space:** 25MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Loads of templates
- ⊕ Easy to design something
- ⊕ Cheap
- ⊖ Tools menu a bit twee

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"The app that produces good results without breaking the bank."

>>SOFTWARE UNINSTALLER

Amnesia 1.0.4

$10 (£7) Amnesia makes sure unwanted applications are gone from your Mac for good

CONTACTS

Developer: Koingo Software
www.koingosw.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595105

SPECIFICATIONS

OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easy to navigate and control
- ⊕ Mostly effective in finding files
- ⊕ Warns of potential problems
- ⊖ Future versions likely to improve

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Cuts out hassle, but it could be worth waiting for the next version."

This application is essentially going head to head with the likes of *AppCleaner*, *AppZapper* and *CleanApp*, all of which claim to wipe every trace of unwanted applications off your disk. But its real rival is the Trash: most of us are more concerned about deleting the disk space hoggers rather than tracking down tiny ancillary files.

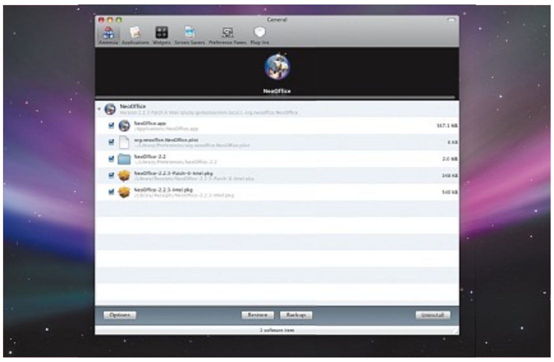
Where complete eradication is an issue, however, *Amnesia* scans your disk for apps, widgets, screensavers, plug-ins, and preference panes. It also tries to locate any other files (except data files) associated with them. You can then back up the files before uninstalling. There is also the option to tell *Amnesia* to ignore Apple products, and send warnings before deleting.

We found *Amnesia* easy to use and effective, although it faltered at removing a Microsoft *Office* trial, leaving behind *Word* settings files. And since it's the nature of this utility to fix problems you didn't know existed, who knows what files might still lurk?

However, it could be too early to buy *Amnesia*. The makers promise some nifty features for future versions, including scanning for data files created by an app you're removing. Also likely to improve is *Amnesia*'s internal list of the strange places that some applications keep files.

So while *Amnesia* performs, it might be best to carry on Trashing until the next major upgrade.

Barnaby Page



When an app is marked, Amnesia will show you all associated files.

>>IMAGE OPTIMISATION AND UPLOAD UTILITY

ImageWell 3.7.1

$20 (£14) An efficient and capable tool for rapidly editing and uploading images

CONTACTS

Developer: XtraLean Software
xtralean.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595105

SPECIFICATIONS

OS: Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Efficient and feature-rich
- ⊕ Decent web/upload tools
- ⊖ Simple batch conversion
- ⊖ Ugly, clunky interface

VERDICT

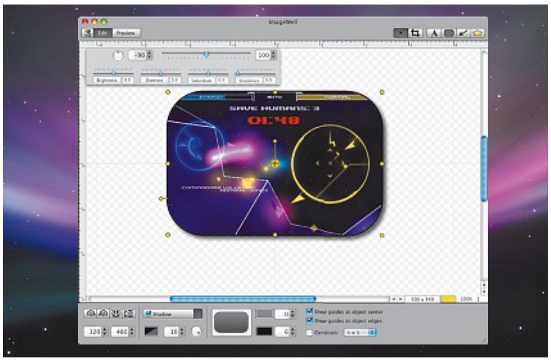
★★★★½

"Outperforms its rivals and is worth buying, despite an ugly mug."

XtraLean's *ImageWell* is a nifty tool for making quick-fire edits and format changes to images, and then saving or uploading them to the web. On dragging an image into the well, you can switch its format, amend its name, adjust its size and add a text watermark. Options also exist for sending your screen (or a selection) to *ImageWell*. An Edit button expands the main window, giving access to further controls for cropping, adding shapes, masks, borders or drop shadows, and adjusting brightness, contrast, saturation and sharpness. A Preview button lets you view your image in exported form, without guides, and applied attributes can be saved as templates for future use.

When you're done editing, your image can be dragged from the well to *Finder* or sent to a user-defined online location, such as an iDisk, Flickr or an FTP folder. Usefully, any file dropped on *ImageWell*'s Send button can be uploaded, making it a handy 'lite' FTP app. For forum users, *ImageWell*'s History feature enables one-click copying of the location of uploaded images, and provides formatting options (HTML <img />, [img] and [image]). If the quality of *ImageWell*'s interface matched its functionality, we'd have a *MacFormat* Choice Award winner here. As it is, the UI is clunky, but it's still a recommended app.

Craig Grannell



This composite grab shows the main window in Standard and Edit modes.

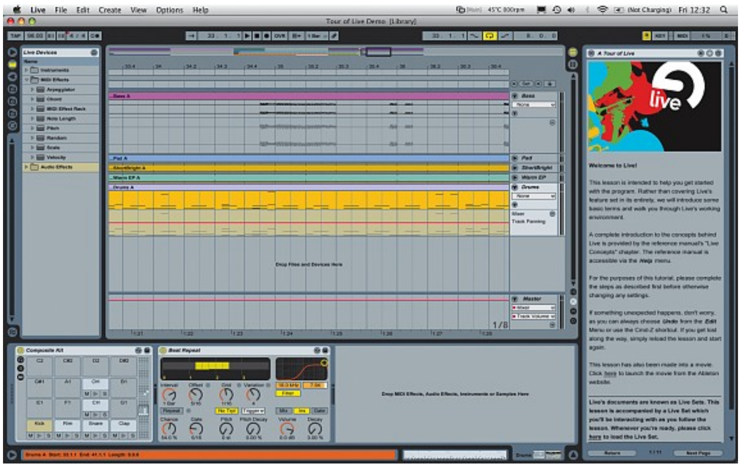
>> AUDIO WORKSTATION AND SEQUENCER

Ableton Live Suite 8.0.1

From $449 (£245) For the computer musician who wants to go beyond GarageBand…

While the world was busy discovering *GarageBand*, professional Mac musicians had been given a three-year head start with Ableton's *Live*. *Live* is like *GarageBand* with all the features you always wanted, and then a box load of extras. It works with clips of audio and MIDI and puts them on a 'session' grid. Unlike most sequencers, the grid can be played live, so you can assemble a collection of clips for a verse and a different collection for the chorus and switch between them with a single mouse click. *Live* is smart enough to interface to most MIDI hardware, so you can attach knobs, buttons, keys and sliders to most of its features for extra performance potential. It's also smart enough to follow tempo and key changes, so you can change the tempo and all of the clips will stretch or shrink to fit it. If you want more conventional and linear music making, you can also switch to an 'arrangement' view, which gives you track-based editing of both MIDI and audio. The arrangement view can remember your playback moves in the session view, so it's a very easy way to demo a song and then rework it later. Everything is editable and there are hundreds of presets, clips, effects, synthesizers and sounds.

> *"New in Live 8 are grooves, which change the rhythmic feel of a clip, and an improved audio-warping engine"*



Online lessons and videos are included. So don't even need to read the manual.

An impressive collection

New in *Live 8* are grooves, which change the rhythmic feel of a clip, and an improved audio-warping engine that creates smoother time stretching. Time stretch still needs manual fine-tuning, but the sound quality is getting impressively smooth. New effects have been added for more creative sound editing, including versatile dynamics and multiband compression, a vocoder and a frequency shifter. Rounding off the package are changes to workflow, including improved editing and better crossfades and track grouping.

Live comes in three flavours. *LE* includes a couple of software synthesizers and 20 studio effects. *Full* offers all effects and adds extra loops, and *Suite* adds a collection of software synthesizers and more instruments and samples. The boxed version of the programme includes a manual and more sample content.

The collection of softsynths includes two samplers, a virtual analog synthesizer, and a couple of physical modelling synthesizers. The EIC library of presets is good. The preset synthesizer collections are rich, as are the drum, percussion and orchestral sounds.

Live 8 would be perfect, but we had problems with CPU spikes and slow speeds and crashes. Ableton's record on bug fixes is good, so it's likely these problems will have been fixed by the time you read this. But if you want to use *Live 8* professionally, try out the free demo first.

The Live lowdown

Live is an excellent complement to *Logic Studio*. It's unbeatable for live performance, and gives *Logic* a run for it's money when it comes to studio work. However, its synths aren't as comprehensive as *Logic*'s, and they don't sound as good. The audio and MIDI effects are matched, and *Live*'s clip-based mixing and performance system is unique. Hundreds of pros use *Live 8* and it may not be perfect, but it is very, very good.

Richard Wendtk

CONTACTS

Developer: Ableton
www.ableton.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/595098

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: 1.25GHz G4/G5 or greater (Intel Mac recommended)
RAM: 1GB RAM (2GB recommended)
OS: Mac OS X 10.4.11 (10.5 or later recommended), DVD drive

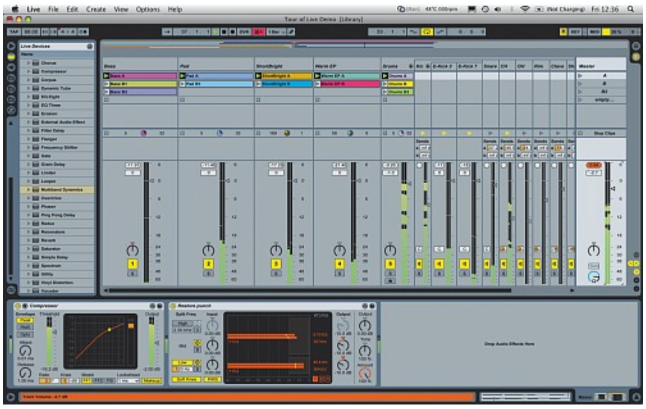
PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Impressive clip arrangements
- ⊕ Huge selection of effects
- ⊕ Giant sample library
- ⊖ Somewhat buggy
- ⊖ Not cheap
- ⊖ Design won't appeal to all

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Impressive features, especially in Suite 8 - Live comes even closer to the studio-in-a-box ideal than Logic Studio."



In Session mode clips are arranged vertically, and controlled by a virtual mixing console.

>>COMIC BOOK CREATOR

Spore Comic Book Creator

£18 Create comics with your Spore creatures… and god-like patience

CONTACTS

Developer: MashON
www.mashon.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596721

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: 1.83GHz Intel Core Duo or greater **RAM:** 512MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Large library of graphics
- ⊖ Appallingly sluggish
- ⊖ Poor, non-standard interface
- ⊖ Flat graphics, no 3D

VERDICT

★☆☆☆☆

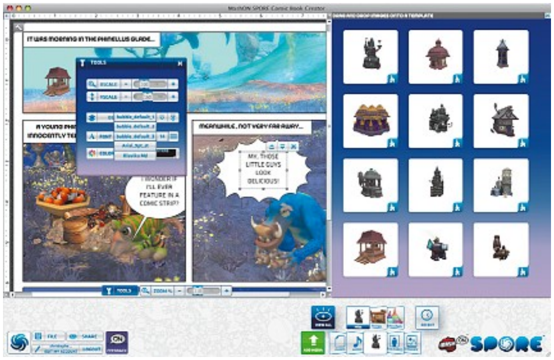
"It gets a star due to some good bundled content - that's it…"

How to describe *Spore*? It's a fun, easy-to-use 'God-sim' videogame that pushes the boundaries of its genre. What about *Spore Comic Book Creator*? It's a tortuous, counter-intuitive mess that is utterly pedestrian in its approach and output!

Comic Book Creator is developed by a different company to the one that created *Spore*, and boy, does it show. The idea is laudable, if a bit niche: if you love the videogame, enough, you can buy this app and create comic strips using your creatures.

The problems are many. It's an app developed in Adobe's AIR environment. AIR has many benefits – it's cross-platform, easy to code for, and reliant on technologies such as Flash that many developers are fluent in. Installation was sluggish, mouse-clicks sometimes took seconds, and the spinning beachball was ever-present.

Worse, the interface didn't use standard commands – selecting an object and tapping delete did nothing, you couldn't select multiple objects, and there were no shortcuts or even the ability to undo.



MashON SPORE Comic Book Creator
IT WAS MORNING IN THE PHINELLUS GLADE...
TOOLS
MEANWHILE, NOT VERY FAR AWAY...
MY, THOSE LITTLE GUYS LOOK DELICIOUS!
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER FEATURE IN A COMIC STRIP?
FILE
SHARE
SPORE

The interface may be pretty, but it masks a sluggish system.

However, there's loads of graphics to use, including backgrounds that you can drop into the grids, and lots of creatures and objects. But they're just flat graphics, not 3D objects.

You can't even flip graphics to make them face a different way. You can save your own creatures from *Spore*, but they're low-res PNGs that don't scale well.

Christopher Phin

>>BULK EMAILER

Macware EmailCampaign

£40 The cost-effective way to manage your bulk email needs...

CONTACTS

Developer: Macware
www.macwareinc.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/596710

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: PPC G3 or greater **RAM:** 512GB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.3 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Good mailing list tools
- ⊕ Low system requirements
- ⊕ Good PDF tutorial
- ⊖ Not very easy to use

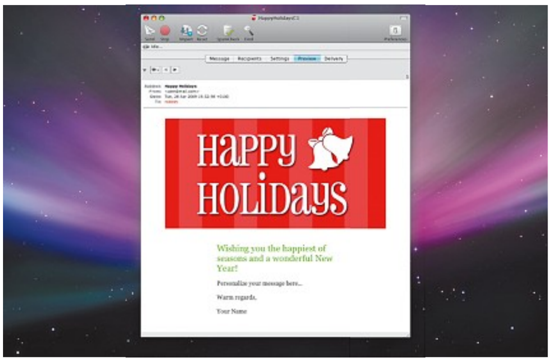
VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"It's definitely a solid performer, but it could be a lot more friendly."

As useful as it is to get someone else to send out your newsletters to a huge list of contacts, and then deal with all the bouncebacks, new subscribers and cancellations, it will cost. However, *EmailCampaign* is designed to send targeted emails and help you manage your mailing list. You can design and send messages, with more than 300 HTML and plain text templates to get you started. It verifies the active and dead email addresses on the list, offers flexible send options, deals with bounced mails and processes Unsubscribe requests. It can extract email addresses into a list, and delete duplicate or badly formatted addresses.

Trouble is, it's not that easy to use. To find a suitable template, for example, you must pick your way through a folder tree and open them one by one until you find something that meets your needs. Replacing dummy text involves editing HTML. The app can import contacts from *Address Book*, *Entourage* and other programs, though you have to configure your SMTP settings yourself – no automatically importing it from *Mail*. The PDF tutorial is good, easing you into *EmailCampaign* very well, but we hope subsequent versions will be more user-friendly out of the box.



Happy Holidays

Wishing you the happiest of seasons and a wonderful New Year!

Personalize your message here...

Warm regards,

Your Name

This email template offers a decidedly American Xmas greeting.

EmailCampaign gets the job done, but be prepared to spend time getting to grips with it. It's not tailored for the complete novice, but perhaps it should be.

Ian Osborne

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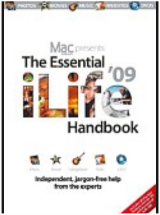

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WORLD OF TECH

21 guilty pleasures for geeks

Things you don't even admit on anonymous forums

It's OK, you're in safe company. We know you didn't really buy that gadget because it could interface seamlessly with the cloud, or because it offers the best range of features for Small to Medium Enterprises, or even because it has the fastest processor this side of a supercomputer. You just like touching its rubbery buttons and the fact that it goes 'ping'.

You're not alone. In fact, here are some other guilty pleasures that we'd like to share with you...

1. The iPhone Unlock swipe

You've used your iPhone every day since you bought it, but even all those apps you've downloaded can't compare to the first thing you do with your iPhone every day: gently, caressingly, swiping your finger from left to right across the Unlock button. It's the nearest you ever get to foreplay. And you love it.

2. Seeing how juiced up your PC is in Vista / Windows 7

You know you've got a kicking system, and how. Yet every day you dive into the Welcome Centre just to see it all by the numbers. "Windows-capable? Don't make us laugh. Just look at the stats I'm getting," you say (probably to yourself).

3. The Macintosh bong

A cross-between a call to action, geek whimsy and the harbinger of PC doom, the Macintosh bong is one of the great geek pleasures. It confirms your status as a man (or woman) who has thunk different, sticking it to the (PC) man with your non-conformist ways. Sometimes you stick it through your kick-ass speakers. Sometimes you simply soak it up on headphones. But the best is when you Zap the PRAM by holding down the Command-Option-P-R keys so your Mac starts up again, and again.... and again. Or you could just watch the Bong video on YouTube.

4. Looking at your blog's user stats

OK, so your mum is the only person who looks at your blog and that's only because you set her homepage to it last time your configured her PC, but still. Every day you pile on to Statcounter, Technorati or Google Analytics just to see how well you're doing. What, you're supposed to get them to ignore your own IP address? Where's the pleasure in that?

5. Waggling the analogue sticks on your PS3

Whether you're fragging your way through FPS mayhem, careering around a virtual racetrack or lolloping around a platformer, the best bit about it all is the feel of those rubbery pointy things that squirm beneath your thumbs. You especially love it when you waggle so far that the joystick reaches its softly clunking stop. It's even better when you send it yawing back the other way.

6. Cranking up your home cinema system for the THX OMMMMMmmmmm

200W per channel amplifier? Check. Seven surround sound speakers and two active subs? Check. The neighbours are out? Stuff it, who cares! That latest Blu-ray blockbuster may shift more CGI pixels than a supercomputer in a Pixar render-farm, but hey – just listen to this. Everyone, come on, OMMMMMmmmmm. It's what war would sound like if Hare Krishna had an army.

7. Smashing the ball in Wii Tennis

OK, so you could just wave your arm around lazily while lying semi-comatose on your sofa. But surely it's much (much) better to lift the Wii-mote right above your head, violently jerk your arm down and then listen out for that thundering whack as your virtual racket hits the virtual ball. You're rewarded with the shimmering, heady sight of the ball screaming banshee-like across the net. Bingo, one set-winning ace in the bag and the shame-faced joy of seeing your four-year-old nemesis crumple, crying, to the floor. Guilty pleasure? Oh yes.

8. Deliberately trying to confuse your sat nav

You've plotted the fastest route from here to Maplin, only now you're just going to take a teensy detour. "Perform a legal U-turn", TessTess says politely. "Perform a legal U-turn", she says again, tension rising slightly. "I SAID, PERFORM A LEGAL U-TURN! What's the matter, can't you tell your left from right, or something?" TessTess, of course, has failed to spot that you're driving a DeLorean. And this is now 1955...

There's more! Read the full article at www.techradar.com/565083

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Come on, admit it: you love swiping your iPhone screen

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Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK's MUGs

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus

[14] Glasgow MUG
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasmug.com

[15] Isle of Wight MUG
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[16] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesmug.org

[17] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[18] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[19] Manchester MUG
Manchester
simon.richards@manmug.co.uk

[20] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[21] Naseby Mac User Group
Naseby
stuart.cato@mac.com

[22] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[23] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
www.nwmug.co.uk

[24] Norwich MUG
Norwich
norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

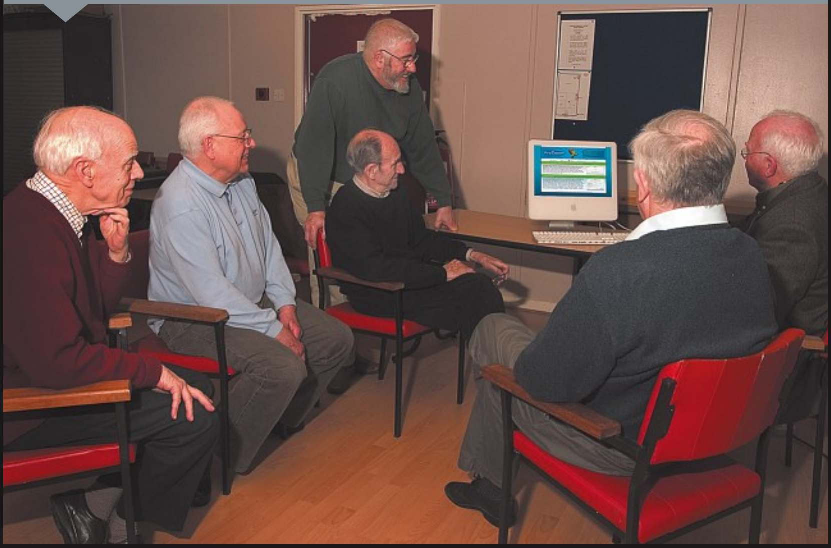
[25] Oban MUG
Oban
obanmug@mac.com

[26] OxMUG
Oxford
www.oxmug.org

[27] Potteries MUG
potmug@mac.com
www.potmug.com

[28] Severn MUG
South West
admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

MUG OF THE MONTH/ Fife, Scotland



Fife's Apple Mac User Society (FAMUS) is a small but growing group of Mac enthusiasts based in east central Scotland. The group's casual monthly meetings cover a range of Mac issues, including tutorials and problem solving. Recent meetings have discussed Photoshop plug-ins, OpenOffice.org and web design. FAMUS meets in Linktown Action Centre in Kirkcaldy. Membership is free. For more info, see **www.fifedirect.org.uk/FAMUS**.

[29] Southampton Uni
Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

[30] South Essex MUG
Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

[31] South Wales MUG
Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[32] Sneem MUG
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[33] Stroud Mac User Group
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

[34] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[35] Surrey MUG
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[36] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@googlemail.com
http:// swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[37] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[38] Wessex MUGs
Fareham, Dorchester, Bournmouth & Salisbury
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[39] Witney MUG
West Oxfordshire
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
www.ymug.org

[40] Yorkshire MUG
Doncaster & other towns
witneymacusergroup@gmail.com
www.witneymacusergroup.webs.com

ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?
Email in and let us know!
macformat@futurenet.com

NEW STARTER

START YOUR OWN MUG

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email **macformat@futurenet.com**

Shareware

>> MEET YOUR MAC EXPERT
Shareware obsessive, Craig Grannell has more small apps on his Mac than Steve Jobs has black polo necks.

● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

O2-UK 15:52

MacFormat Recent

MacFormat 7 Apr 2009 13:39
Apple has launched a new Xserve using the Nehalem processors. Um, yay?

MacFormat 7 Apr 2009 13:35
Finally, we can tell you about the Drobo announcement from yesterday; the enterprise-ready, 8-bay Drobo Pro: http://is.gd/rbOX - HDelicious!

Sweet tweet

Very occasionally, a shareware announcement makes us giddy, but we had one such experience shortly before writing this very sentence. On randomly visiting the atebits website (**www.atebits.com**), we discovered Tweetie - the very best Twitter client for iPhone - is coming to Mac OS X. If it's anywhere near as good as the iPhone release, it'll oust the likes of Blogo and Twitterific instantly.

PCalc
0.7734
pcalc

It all adds up

James Thomson's been busy. DragThing's creator has released two versions of PCalc, which is to the Mac OS X and iPhone calculators what a recording studio is to an old four-track cassette recorder. PCalc for OS X and iPhone share lickable themes and non-lickable unit conversion and are not as restrictive as Apple's calculators. See more at **www.pcalc.com**.

>> IMAGE BROWSER

Deep 1.1.0

$34 (£25) An innovative image browser from the tagging kings

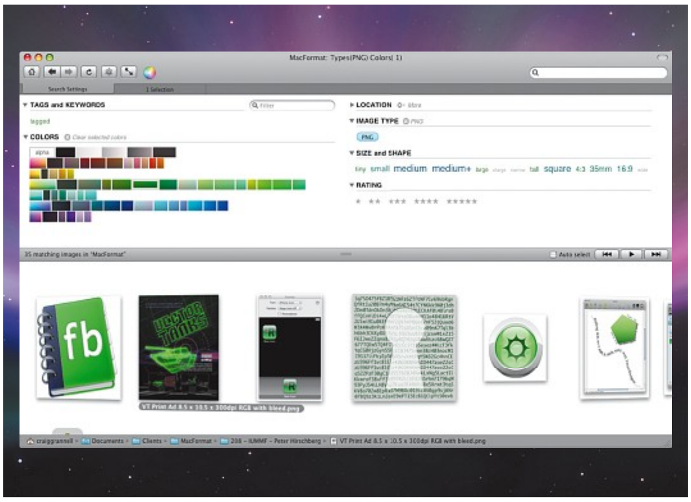
Developer Ironic Software has carved itself a niche with applications for browsing and tagging documents. Crucially, the company understands that it's useful to search different file types in unique ways. Therefore, while *Yep*, its PDF manager, searches for items via words, its image browser *Deep* is primarily concerned with colours, file types, sizes and shapes.

On first running *Deep*, it searches your drive for images and builds a database. On our Mac, it took about 75 minutes for the drive to stop churning in the background while *Deep* explored and indexed our 60,000 images. Once *Deep*'s done, images can be explored by location, type, size, shape, or a combination of criteria.

> *"Attention to detail is strong, with Deep offering single-key shortcuts to important controls"*

More impressive, though, is *Deep*'s ability to make fairly direct comparisons between images, largely based on palettes. Select an image (or drop one on to *Deep* from a website) and the application will present images it thinks matches. This is great for finding photographs to fit a colour scheme and also for unearthing 'lost' images. For example, we threw a few low-res thumbnails from a website at *Deep* and it immediately found the originals in *iPhoto* and elsewhere. Over time, you'll probably also find *Deep* presenting 'unexpected' but relevant suggestions for projects. It's like an extra pair of intelligent eyes lurking behind the screen. Of course, with *Deep* being by Ironic Software, tags and ratings also assist searches, although you need to be fairly disciplined in adding them to fully benefit.

Overall, we like *Deep* a lot. The 'carousel' display in the results area is iffy, but the interface is otherwise great, especially considering the wealth of options on display. And where it matters, attention to detail is strong, with *Deep* offering single-key shortcuts to important controls (including nine slideshow speeds), a splendid full-screen mode, and a useful on-screen item path.


MacFormat: Types(PNG) Colors(1)
TAGS and KEYWORDS
COLORS
LOCATION
IMAGE TYPE
PNG
SIZE and SHAPE
tiny small medium medium+ large square 4:3 35mm 16:9
RATING
35 matching images in "MacFormat"
Auto select

Deep enables you to search thousands of images to find similar matches.

CONTACT INFO

Developer: Ironic Software
Vendor: www.ironicsoftware.com

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A niche product, but designers and photographers should find it good value."

>> WEATHER CALENDAR

WeatherCal 1.0

$10 (£7) www.barebones.com

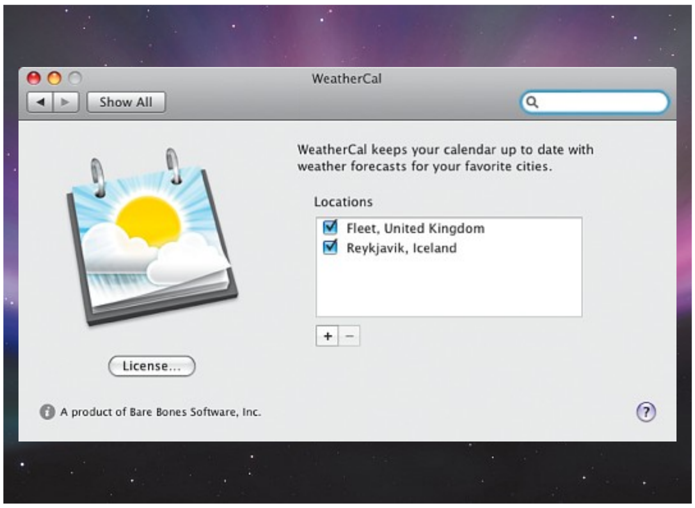
Using *WeatherCal*, you define cities via a *System Preferences* pane, and each location becomes a new *iCal* calendar. Forecasts for the next five days are displayed as full-day events, complete with tiny icon, and a Weather Underground URL gives access to in-depth forecasts.

This works well, but online sources offer similar functionality for free, so you're paying for a little convenience and the fact *WeatherCal* continues updating when *iCal* isn't open. In our view, *WeatherCal* would be great if free.

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"Simple, useful and reliable, but it's a tad overpriced when there are free alternatives available."

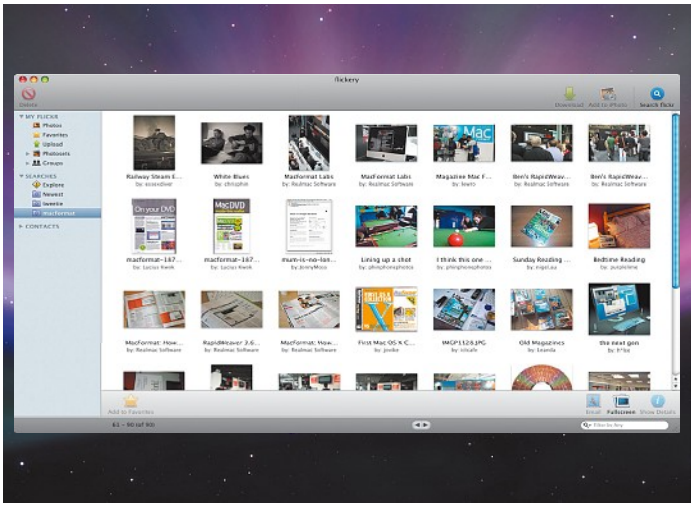


WeatherCal keeps your calendar up to date with weather forecasts for your favorite cities.

Locations

☑ Fleet, United Kingdom
☑ Reykjavik, Iceland

Suitably, with it being by Bare Bones, WeatherCal offers no configuration options at all.



Flickery beats iPhoto when it comes to Flickr, but is currently a bit buggy.

>> FLICKR CLIENT

Flickery 1.0

€15 (£11) http://eternalstorms.at/flickery/

Although *iPhoto '09* enables you to upload to Flickr, options are limited. *Flickery* is a fully-fledged Flickr client that enables you to upload photos to Flickr (and make basic edits prior to doing so), manage groups and sets, search the entire site, flag favourites and more.

In use, *Flickery* is like a simplified *iLife* application, and getting started is easy. However, it lacks the polish of an Apple application, and the various bugs we found during testing stop *Flickery* rating higher.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Brilliant little app but a bit buggy. We await an update with bated breath."

>> PDF VIEWER

PDF Browser Plugin

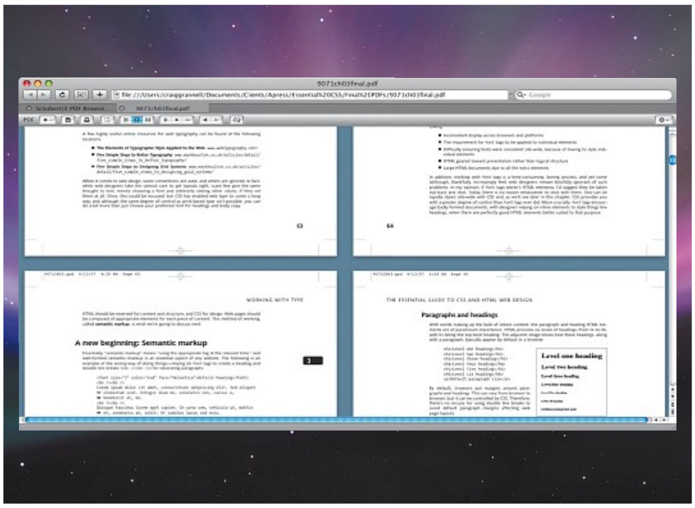
From £FREE www.schubert-it.com

PDF Browser Plugin 2.3.1 isn't the only choice for viewing PDFs inside a browser, but its maker claims it's the best. During testing, we were impressed by layout options, such as a split view for simultaneously checking two parts of a PDF. The lack of scrollwheel support irked, though, as did the lack of search. Also, it wouldn't work with *Firefox*, although it was fine with *Opera* and *Safari*. *PDF Browser Plugin* is free for non-commercial and educational use, otherwise it's $69 (£47) for a site licence. ●

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Good for home users who regularly view PDFs online, but the commercial price is high."



PDF Browser Plugin's views are its best feature, but the lack of scrollwheel support irks.

iPhone

>> MEET YOUR iPHONE EXPERT
Deputy Editor Christopher Phin knows more about the iPhone than any one man has the right to; this page is as much therapy as reviews.

● SIMPLE GAMES ● ESSENTIAL UTILITIES ● INNOVATIVE APPS ● LATEST NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

AT&T exclusivity and new products

AT&T is expected to try and negotiate an extension to its exclusivity agreement with Apple, which sees it as the only carrier in the US that offers the iPhone. But Apple is believed to have shown some new prototypes to rivals Verizon Wireless. One is said to be an iPhone-like device, while the second is believed to be what one person dubbed a 'media pad' (suggesting our designs for an Apple netbook last issue were pretty near the mark!).

A second Palm Pre model?

The rumour mill is cranking up suggesting that Palm's 'iPhone killer', the Pre, may soon get a brand-new baby brother. Using its new webOS, the rumoured device is said to be smaller than the Pre (shown above), offering a slightly reduced feature set, all of which is designed to appeal to a more budget-conscious user. With a smaller iPhone model also rumoured, it looks like we're in for a fun phone summer!

>> OFFICE SUITE

Quickoffice

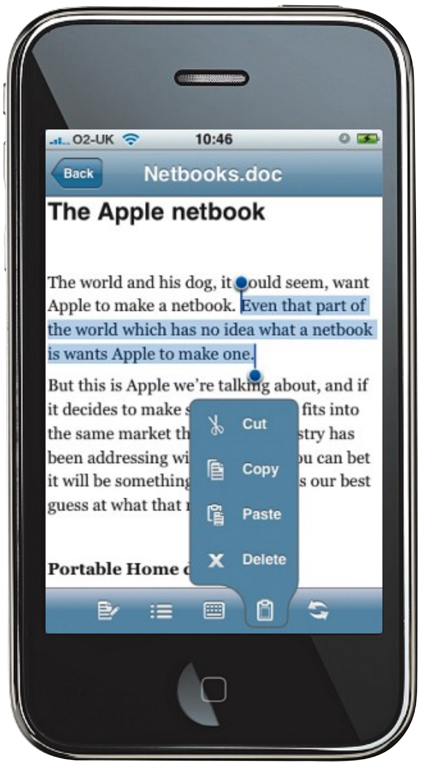
£11.99 Create and edit Word and Excel documents on the road

There's no shortage of applications for the iPhone that can view documents and spreadsheets, but what's missing is a way to create or edit them. On top of that, with developments from the big name in PDA-style editing, *Documents To Go*, promising but not yet delivering on the iPhone, we were delighted to see the launch of *Quickoffice*.

After forking out our £12 – pricey by iPhone-app standards – we fired it up. The interface is good, if a little clunky, and lacks the flair of the best applications from the likes of *Tapbots*.

> *"You can change fonts, style and size, create bulleted lists and, can it be true… cut, copy and paste?"*

It does, however, let you create and edit *Word* and *Excel* documents. (It will view the new XML-based .docx and .xlsx formats that *Office 2007/2008* creates, but currently can't edit them; an update is promised, though it makes no mention of *Pages* and *Numbers* files.) In the document editor, you can change fonts (limited to the iPhone's web-safe list), style and size, create bulleted lists and, by Jobs, can it be true… cut, copy and paste? The behaviour is a little fiddly, but it's bliss nevertheless. However, one problem is the keyboard's intelligence – auto-correction and the like – is missing, making typing laborious.



The Apple netbook

The world and his dog, it would seem, want Apple to make a netbook. Even that part of the world which has no idea what a netbook is wants Apple to make one.

But this is Apple we're talking about, and if it decides to make s fits into the same market th stry has been addressing wi u can bet it will be something s our best guess at what that r

Portable Home c

The spreadsheet editor is basic, but it does let you enter and edit formulas, change cell formats and, of course, cut, copy and paste. You can also grab files from (and save to) your iDisk, or mount your iPhone over a WiFi network for direct copying from a Mac or PC.

There's no way to open attachments sent by email, and while you can email files from the device or your iDisk, the system introduced odd formatting glitches.

CONTACTS

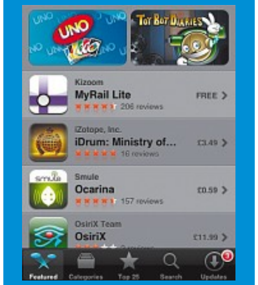
Developer: Quickoffice
www.quickoffice.com
Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A long way from perfect, but it's the only serious app of its kind."

>> DOWNLOAD THESE APPS



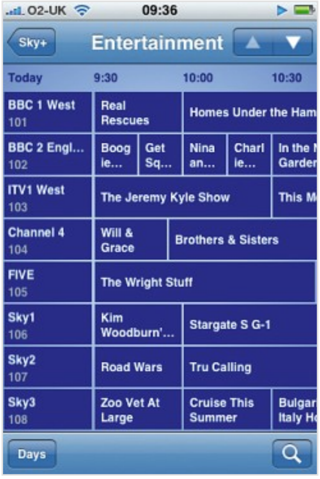
You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

SKY+ REMOTE SCHEDULER

Sky+

£FREE Record programs on Sky+ from your iPhone

You've been able to remote record on your Sky+ box via a text message or the web for a while now; this new iPhone app lets you do the same from your iPhone. It's a little ugly and lacks features, but it's quick and the TV guide, through which you can scroll or search, worked without a hitch. Once you've found a program you want to record, click on it, tap R and the instruction is sent to your Sky+ box. The omission of any visual clue on the app to say that you've marked a programme for recording, as well as a lack of any other features to speak of, makes this seem like an early effort. The ability to add a series link would be greatly appreciated. Fingers crossed for version 2.0.


O2-UK
09:36
Sky+
Entertainment
Today
9:30
10:00
10:30
BBC 1 West 101
Real Rescues
Homes Under the Ham
BBC 2 Engl... 102
Boog ie...
Get Sq...
Nina an...
Charl ie...
In the Garden
ITV1 West 103
The Jeremy Kyle Show
This M
Channel 4 104
Will & Grace
Brothers & Sisters
FIVE 105
The Wright Stuff
Sky1 106
Kim Woodburn'...
Stargate S G-1
Sky2 107
Road Wars
Tru Calling
Sky3 108
Zoo Vet At Large
Cruise This Summer
Bulgar Italy H
Days

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Functional and easy to use, but looks plain and lacks features."

TV AND RADIO LISTINGS

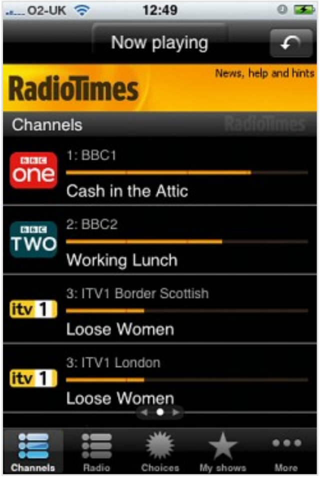
RadioTimes

£2.99 What's on telly? Pass the Radio Times…

While the programme guide in the *Sky+* app doubles as a listings guide, it's not ideal if you only have terrestrial TV. It's time to put the queen of listings in the palm of your hand…

You can tell it what channels you have and preset them (although inclusion of regional variants would be welcome). Or you can scroll through by channel or time, read a description with *RT* ratings, and search for the show on Wikipedia, YouTube and iPlayer. You can even mark shows as favourites to create an à la carte schedule for yourself.

It's a little sluggish, and sometimes confusing, but it has a good help system, and you can build customised channel groups.


O2-UK
12:49
Now playing
RadioTimes
News, help and hints
Channels
1: BBC1
Cash in the Attic
2: BBC2
Working Lunch
3: ITV1 Border Scottish
Loose Women
3: ITV1 London
Loose Women
Channels
Radio
Choices
My shows
More

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Sometimes unwieldy and counter-intuitive, but it's rich and handy."

TWITTER NOTEPAD

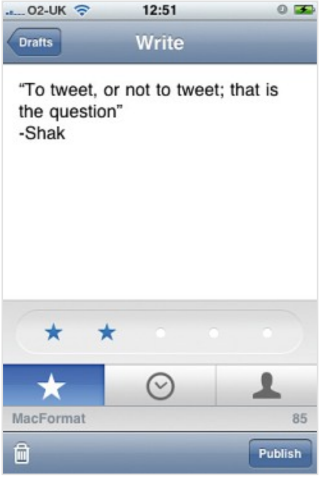
Birdhouse

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£2.39 Got something to say… later?

At first glance *Birdhouse* might seem pointless. If you thought *Twitter* was vague, indulgent and pointless, look away now; *Birdhouse* is a notepad designed to let you draft multiple notes for *Twitter* and publish them when you choose. Frankly, we think the idea has some merit; you may not always want to publish immediately, you may want to check some facts or even just some spellings, or you might just want to organise thoughts for multiple accounts.

Besides, if you think it's pointless, don't buy it. As it stands, it's a beautifully polished app that performs its stated function well. You can rate drafts and even unpublish notes that were added from *Birdhouse*.


O2-UK
12:51
Drafts
Write
MacFormat
85
Publish

"To tweet, or not to tweet; that is the question"
-Shak

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Dedicated to a task few people need, but well-excuted for those who do"

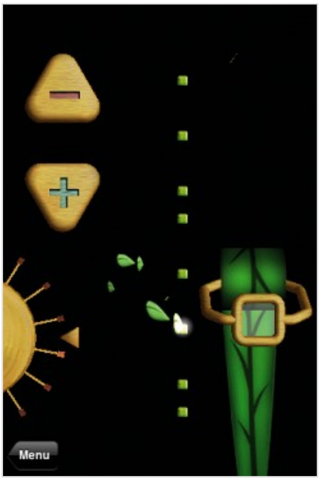
INSTRUMENT

Leaf Trombone

£0.59 Make sweet, sweet music with your iPhone…

Um, it turns your iPhone into a trombone. That's all ye know and all ye need to know. You blow into the microphone at the bottom of the phone to produce a note, and move the slider on the on-screen leaf (a bit like a party blower) to change the pitch.

It gets better. The community is working to create more music for your leaf trombone; it's similar to *Guitar Hero* in that little leaves stream into view telling you where to position the slider and when to blow, though it can be hard to see. The result is, well, dependent on the skill of the player… The best bit is you can perform on a world stage; other users can log on, listen to you, and rate your performance. ●



VERDICT

★★★★½

"Who cares if soaking your dock connector in spittle voids your warranty?"

Games

» MEET YOUR GAMES EXPERT

Andy Dyer is a true gaming legend, having worked on more games mags than he's had hot dinners. Now he gets his gaming fix on his beloved iMac and iPod touch.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rotten Apple

It was only a matter of time before more CSI games came out. After all, the TV show's producers seem hellbent on creating a spin-off based in every known town on the planet. How long before CSI: Margate hits the screens? The very latest game, CSI: NY is out now on the Mac (**www.macgamestore.com**) and delivers similar thrills to those found in CSI: Hard Evidence, except it features a new look and an improved interface.

00:17
E E E L
W H N P
V S M L
O A U E

Word up!

The classic word game Boggle comes to the Mac. The game involves 16 dice with letters printed on them, these are then shaken and, once settled, you have to make as many words as you can within the time limit. This version enables you to play against your Mac or compare scores with other players around the globe (**www.iwin.com**).

» REAL-TIME STRATEGY

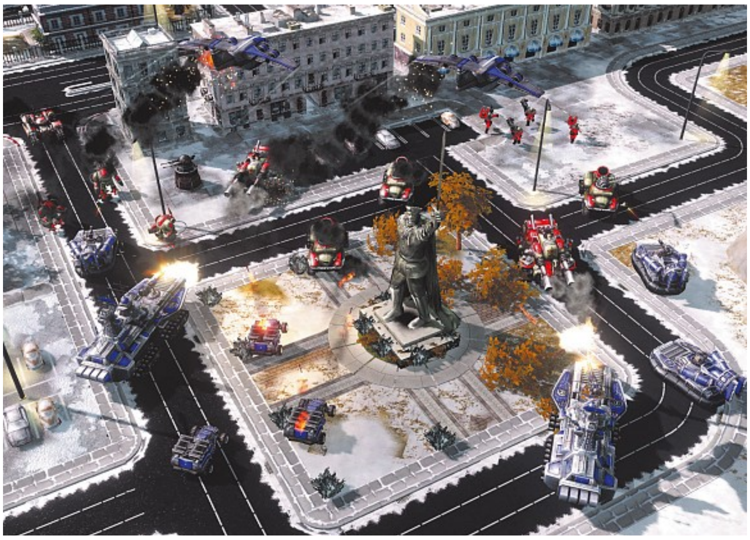
Command & Conquer: Red Alert 3

The C&C red menace is back with a brand-new look and a stellar cast

After a seven-year hiatus, the *Red Alert* strand of the long-running real-time strategy franchise, *Command & Conquer*, is back. The original *Red Alert* spin-off worked on the premise that Einstein travelled back in time to remove Hitler and avert World War II. Unfortunately, Stalin's forces invaded Europe instead.

In *Red Alert 3*, having had their asses kicked, the Soviet leaders travel back in time to restore their former glory, but things don't go to plan and we end up with World War III being fought between the Soviet Union, Allied forces and a new Eastern power, the Empire of the Rising Sun.

> *"You can call on the extra services of armoured bears, Tesla coils and Dolphins..."*



ABOVE: The troops were having a nightmare with the one-way system. **FAR LEFT:** Gameplay promises plenty of detail and fantastic animation. **LEFT:** Gemma Atkinson gets tough in the role of Lt. Eva McKenna.

The Empire of the Rising Sun is headed up by Emperor Yoshiro, played by *Star Trek* legend George Takei, while the Soviet Premier Cherdenko is brought to life by Tim Curry. Eye candy comes from Gemma Atkinson, former *Hollyoaks* star, who takes on the role of Lt. Eva McKenna.

And the game is as good as the cast. The visuals are great, with lots of detail and wonderful battle animation. But, the units provided for the three factions are the real stars. As well as the tanks, drones, rocket launchers, aircraft carriers and so on, you can call on the extra services of armoured bears, Tesla coils and Dolphins. Each unit has a dual role so you can switch from a unit's primary function to its secondary abilities.

Purists will no doubt find a lot to criticise, but for the uninitiated, *C&C Red Alert 3* promises to be a very enjoyable and colourful experience. ●

>> PLATFORM ADVENTURE

Prince of Persia

$50 (£34) The classic platform adventure receives a makeover

This latest chapter in the *Prince of Persia* story is, in terms of difficulty, the easiest in the series by a long chalk. Both the original 1989 game and the recent *Sands of Time* trilogy were notable for their excruciating difficulty levels. Here though there seems to have been a deliberate attempt to not so much dumb down the gameplay as make it accessible to a more diverse community of gamers. Hardcore players shouldn't be put off though. The lack of challenge is more than made up for by the exotic looks, engaging story and fluid gameplay.

Dealing with those in the order mentioned, *PoP* looks stunning. The cel-shaded graphics do a wonderful job of conveying the exoticism of the setting and, what's more, this graphical technique makes it possible for the game to flow seamlessly between cut scenes and the gameplay itself. This is especially important because the story is integral to the enjoyment of the experience. The prince in this game (if indeed he is a prince at all) is wandering through the desert when he encounters a girl called Elika who is being pursued by her father. A chain of events leads to Elika's father releasing an ancient evil entity called Ahriman and this is where the trouble starts, as the prince and Elika have to try to contain the evil that is threatening to engulf their world.

> *"The graphics do a wonderful job of conveying the exoticism of the setting, making it possible for the game to flow"*

Mac problems...

Existing *PoP* fans will be pleased to learn that the basic gameplay of the previous games has been retained. The prince is able to run around, jump, cling onto pillars, wall run and so on. But his repertoire of moves has expanded. He can now use his metallic glove to slide down walls rather than falling to his death. In addition, Elika plays an important role in the action. If the prince is about to die from a fall, she'll grab his hand and pull him to safety. If he's about to perish in combat, she'll revive him. She's also useful for helping him to perform extra-long jumps. This cooperative approach is a neat idea and while it makes the game rather easy, it also means you don't get frustrated having to replay large sections of a level when you die. Combat takes a smaller role than in some of the previous games but is no less enjoyable with the prince able to perform some beautiful acrobatic attacks on his foes and, again, enlist Elika's help where necessary.

The mysterious prince is as good as he ever was, but this time he has help in the form of Elika.

This Mac version, though, is not without its problems. First up, it's processor hungry. If you're using a MacBook forget it. If you're an iMac owner you should be prepared to face minimum graphic settings and some serious slowdown when the in-game action picks up. And although the game is best played with a controller rather than a keyboard and mouse configuration, Joytech Rumblepad 2 owners will still have to manually configure their controllers. And even then they will find the subsequent results somewhat awkward.

Merely enjoyable

Prince of Persia is without doubt a great game, but with the current flaws this conversion is merely enjoyable, rather than unmissable. ●

The prince has a huge sulk over the game's less than acceptable performance on the iMac.

CONTACTS

Developer Ubisoft
www.ubisoft.com
Vendor GameTree Online
www.gametreeonline.com

REQUIREMENTS

Intel Core Duo Processor, 1,024MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.6, ATI X1600 or greater or NVIDIA 8600 or greater, 8.01GB hard drive, keyboard and mouse, optional controller (Supported: Logitech Rumblepad 2, Logitech Dual Action USB Controller)

PROS & CONS

⊕ Amazing cel-shaded looks
⊕ Nice story
⊕ Fluid movements
⊕ Interesting combat
⊕ Great sidekick
⊖ Really buggy

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"An amazing game, with good looks and enjoyable narrative, but the Mac conversion is scrappy."

>> PLATFORM ADVENTURE

And Yet it Moves

MacFormat Choice ★★★★★

€12 (£11) Innovation is still alive and well in the world of 2D platforming

CONTACTS

Developer Broken Rules
www.andyetitmoves.net
Vendor Broken Rules
www.andyetitmoves.net

REQUIREMENTS

G4/G5/Intel based, single core 2.0GHz or greater, 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4 or later, 60MB hard drive, Intel GMA950 or greater video card, or any non integrated card with 128MB VRAM

PROS & CONS

- + Look beautiful
- + Sounds lovely
- + Interesting gameplay
- + Cunning puzzles
- + Ghost mode
- − A bit too short

VERDICT

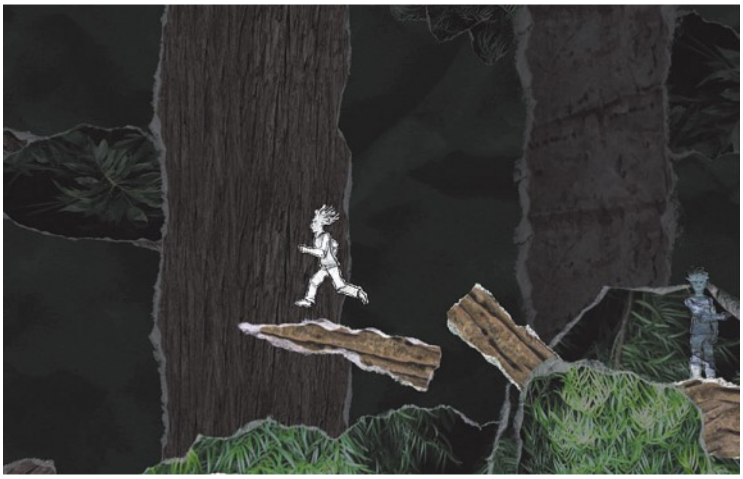
★★★★★

"And Yet it Moves is an amazing little game that will turn your world upside down, literally."

We love it when independent coders come up with something special. It's happening more and more on iPhone thanks to the platform's huge success, but it's harder to find such treasures for your Mac. Developer Broken Rules has come up trumps, though, with a thoroughly delightful and original game. The game started out, essentially, as a piece of coursework; a student project. But it went on to win various award nominations and was showcased at E3, the gaming industry's premier trade event. Broken Rules has since turned its project into a full-blown game and the results will put a big beaming smile on any gamer's face.

Character movements

And Yet It Moves is a very basic platform game, the idea simply being to reach the exit of each level. However, two things mark it out for special attention. First, the visuals are unique and enchanting, with each environment being made up of torn pieces of paper. The scenery is basically just one big collage. More importantly, the gameplay has an interesting twist. As well as being able to run and jump, the player can rotate the entire screen through 90° at a time so that all the surfaces – floors, walls and ceilings – can be used as platforms.



Beautifully simple backgrounds coupled with ingenious gameplay make this game addictive.

The myriad of ways in which this simple game mechanic has been used to challenge the player is impressive. If a platform is too high to jump to, rotate the screen and drop onto it instead. If a gap in the scenery is too large to leap across, rotate the screen twice and walk across on what was formerly the ceiling. If your way is blocked by boulders, simply rotate the screen to drop other rocks onto them, thereby dislodging them. However, all this screen rotation can prove hazardous. One level features a large boulder that persists in rolling after you (like the iconic scene in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*) as you make your way towards the exit. Erratic rotation can also leave you bewildered and cause you to plummet to your death.

In fact, gravity is by far your greatest enemy in this game. Poorly executed screen rotations can drop rocks on your head, cause you to fall into the abyss or, most frequently, drop a little too far and smash yourself up when you hit the ground. There are a number of ways to outwit gravity. If you have a long drop ahead of you, you can simply rotate the screen to make the walls the floor. You can also break a long fall by landing on a slope. The flatter you are to a surface when you land, the more likely you are to survive.

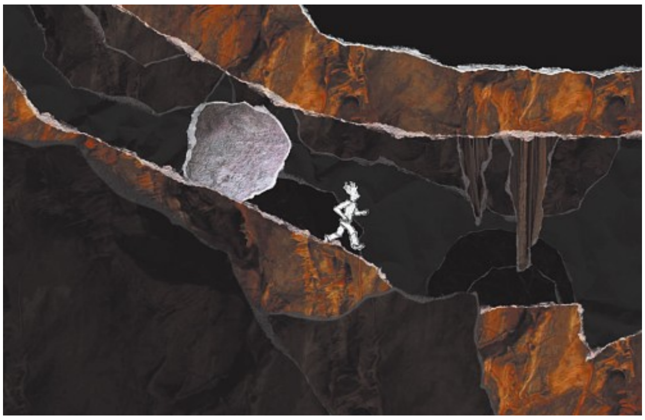
> *"The player can rotate the entire screen so that all the surfaces – floors, walls and ceilings – can be used as platforms"*

Short-lived gameplay

It's superbly enjoyable while it lasts, but unfortunately the game's 17 levels don't last all that long. The developers have bolstered the game longevity, however, by including a competitive mode in which you can try to whizz through the environments in as short a time as possible, posting your best times online. In addition, there's a ghost mode so you can race against your previous best effort, or even share ghost times with other players.

We urge you to download *And Yet It Moves* immediately. Not just to support independent development (although that is a very worthy and necessary cause) but because this game is the result of rare talent. ●

Beware the occupational hazards you'll encounter when turning the ceiling into the floor...



>> iPHONE: FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

Wolfenstein 3D

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£2.99 The classic pre-Doom shooter comes to the iPhone at long last

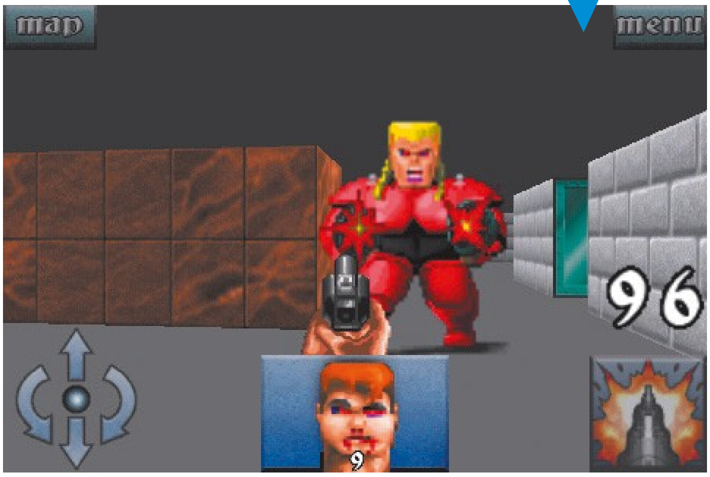
>> iPHONE & iPOD TOUCH
You can download these games from the App Store.

Some would say that id Software's *Wolfenstein* was the game that defined the first-person shooter genre. And what was once a groundbreaking and cutting-edge desktop game is reborn here on the iPhone as a superlative handheld casual game.

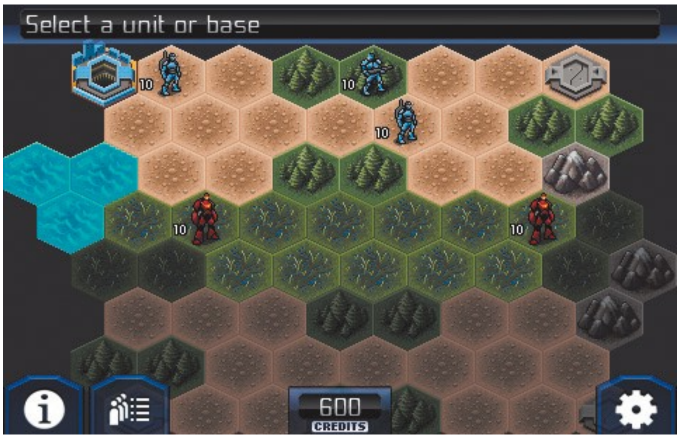
The premise hasn't changed (you play a super-agent imprisoned by Nazis in Castle Wolfenstein) and neither has the gameplay, which involves finding your way through corridors and rooms in order to find the exit, blasting soldiers, super-soldiers, rabid dogs and bosses as you go.

There are 60 levels with graded weapon pick-ups and most importantly, *Wolfenstein* features a superb control system whereby you can strafe with one thumb, look around with the other, and shoot by moving a digit deftly to the top corner of the screen. It works beautifully. All gamers will appreciate the shooting action, retro visuals and slick design. ●

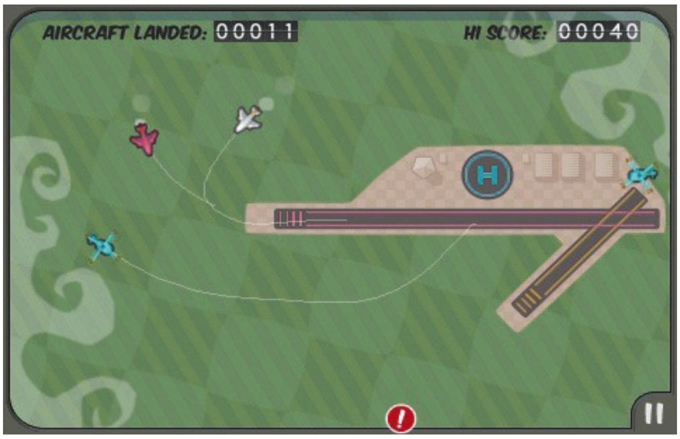
VERDICT
★★★★★
"A game design classic. Kitsch, comfortably familiar and yet still exremely cool."



After all these years, middle-age spread finally gets the baddies of Castle Wolfenstein.



It looks simple enough, but it will provide you with hours of strategising for less than £2.



Stress has never been so enjoyable - Flight Control takes you directly to the runway.

>> iPHONE: STRATEGY

UniWar

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£1.79 Budget gaming without the cut-price quality

Nintendo's *Advance Wars* franchise is a joy, providing a rich strategic challenge presented in an accessible way. But seeing as Nintendo will probably never bring their games to the iPhone, *UniWar* is the next best thing. Hexagonal tiles represent the battlefield, with forests, mountains, and other scenery providing both offensive and defensive advantages. Units can be employed to engage the enemy, defend territory, capture bases and so on. Plus, you can play online. It's a fun way to pass time for a fraction of the cost of other comparable games out there. ●

VERDICT
★★★★★
"A wonderful strategy game, easy to play yet complex enough to provide a challenge."

>> iPHONE: ACTION

Flight Control

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£0.59 The airline sim that'll have you on the edge

Have you ever wished you could take control of dozens of aircraft and their passengers? No. Neither have we. It sounds dull.

As it turns out, the stresses of being an air traffic controller make for great game fodder. *Flight Control* presents the player with a top-down view of an airport. The aircraft then appear so the player can trace flight paths to guide the planes to the landing points, hopefully avoiding mid-air collisions. The random paths and speeds of the aircraft make it harder than you think, and more addictive than you can imagine. ●

VERDICT
★★★★★
"The cool app that turns air traffic control into the best and most fun job ever."

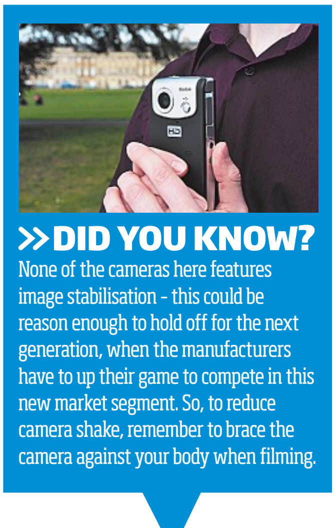
vado
vado HD
Kodak
HD
7x1
Kodak
HD
Zi6

These tiny gadgets all stand out in their own way, but who will reign supreme?

>>COMPACT DV CAMERAS

Pocket power

Christopher Phin waves goodbye to bulky DV cameras and welcomes in something sleeker



>>DID YOU KNOW?

None of the cameras here features image stabilisation – this could be reason enough to hold off for the next generation, when the manufacturers have to up their game to compete in this new market segment. So, to reduce camera shake, remember to brace the camera against your body when filming.

The time has come for yet another revolution. Digital photography is ubiquitous, meaning you can spend very little money to get a camera which shoots stunning still images.

Digital video, though, remains niche, and that's a shame. Yes, there's a magic to capturing someone in a split-second photograph, but moving images can be more evocative, and usually more real – after all, we perceive the world as a place in motion.

Despite huge advances in the portability, power and price of DV cameras, many of us ignore the opportunity to film our friends and family, and we suspect the size and perceived value of traditional DV cameras are to blame.

There is a solution, though; just as ASUS created the netbook market with its Eee PC, so Pure Digital Technologies created an entirely new DV camera market with its original Flip Video. The concept is simple: stick an image sensor and some flash memory in a small, lightweight case, put a record button on it and sell it. The appeal lies in its simplicity and instant usability, and because you're recording to flash memory, just plug the device into your Mac and double-click to open individual clips. They may not be for everyone but they're fun and the best produce video that competes with traditional DV cameras.

It's time for video to go mainstream, come with us… ►

> *"Moving images can be more evocative, and more real – after all, we perceive the world as a place in motion"*

On test this issue

Creative Vado £51

Creative Vado HD £160

Cisco Flip Ultra £80

Cisco Flip Mino HD £170

Kodak Zi6 £120

Kodak Zx1 £139

The slim Kodak Zi6 is still a beast compared to the competition.

>>TEST ONE

Design

Engineering and usability are as important as looks

All are roughly the same size, though the largest, Kodak's Zi6 (the size of an iPod classic), looks ungainly next to the dinky Flip Mino HD (the size of an iPod mini). All have a easy-to-use record button, with other controls arranged around it; the single-surface buttons of the Zx1 are irritating (although they light up),the D-pad on both Creatives is overly squidgy, and it's too easy to brush the touch-sensitive controls of the Mino HD.

The flick-knife pop-out USB port of the Flips is great, though you may need a USB extender cable. Both Creatives have a captive, flexible USB cable too, but the grip you need to pull it out for use gets in the way of the tripod mount.

The two Kodaks plus the Flip Ultra use AA batteries, and the Kodak models also come with rechargeables and a charger; using AAs means the models can be juiced up on the go. However, the embedded rechargeables of the rest are more elegant. The Vados' Li-ion batteries can be replaced.

>>TEST RESULTS

Creative Vado	★★★☆☆
Creative Vado HD	★★★☆☆
Cisco Flip Ultra	★★★☆☆
Cisco Flip Mino HD	★★★★☆
Kodak Zi6	★★★☆☆
Kodak Zx1	★★★★☆

>>TEST TWO

Specifications

Forget design and value, how are these on paper?

There's a clear winner on specs alone; Creative's Vado HD not only records in high definition, but it packs 8GB of internal memory, a removable Lithium-ion battery and HDMI output – plus a cable to connect it to your TV – and all in a case that's small and light.

Though Kodak's models are strong contenders, with the rugged, splash-proof Zx1 looking appealing for active types, their paltry 128MB internal memory rankles; you have to add your own SD card. Both Kodak models, however, record at 60fps – twice the normal frame rate – which is great for slow-mo sequences.

It's not really fair to award marks for the accessories and extras you can add to these cameras, but the two Flips deserve a mention. Although we can't personalise the Mino HD case in the UK as you can in the US by uploading your own photo, you can buy handlebar mounts for both the Ultra and Mino HD, as well as an underwater case for the Ultra.

>>TEST RESULTS

Creative Vado	★★★☆☆
Creative Vado HD	★★★★★
Cisco Flip Ultra	★★☆☆☆
Cisco Flip Mino HD	★★★★☆
Kodak Zi6	★★★★☆
Kodak Zx1	★★★★☆

The rugged Zx1 is ideal for outdoor filming.

>>HARDWARE / Using a digital stills camera for video

You might be thinking "my compact digital stills camera can already shoot movies, so why would I want a compact DV camera?", and that's fair enough. For years, almost all stills cameras have been able to record video clips, and recently they've been making a good job of it but as a rule, they're limited to 640x480 pixels. While that's good enough for occasional clips, especially if they're destined for YouTube or to share by email, it can look basic compared with the HD video capture available here from the Kodak Zi6 for only £120.

While the quality of your digital camera's video is often perfectly acceptable, especially if you're only sharing the videos with family and friends, the audio is often disappointing, and there's rarely the option of adding an external microphone. Sanyo's Xacti range is a high-profile exception here, as a hybrid stills and video camera, which is often very accomplished at capturing solid audio and video; although we thought it was too pricey for inclusion in this group.

One area where stills cameras will excel over cheaper pocket video cameras is in optics. Not only will the lenses be clearer and brighter, but they'll usually boast optical zoom - better than the digital zoom offered here - and often some kind of image stabilisation technology.

The Xacti range from Sanyo provides a good example of a hybrid stills and video camera with solid audio and video.

»TEST THREE

Ease of use

Do you need to study the manual before you shoot?

The joy of these devices is that they are all easy to use yet Kodak manages to overcomplicate with its control system; we prefer the Flip and Vado models, with their five-way D-pad plus a play/pause and delete button.

There's really no difference in ease of use between these cameras if all you're trying to do is switch them on and record, but getting the video onto your Mac for editing is more divisive.

Both Kodak models and the Flip Mino HD record using codecs natively supported on the Mac, so you can plug them in and import them into *iMovie* for more editing.

The Vado and Flip Ultra use XviD, and you need to download and install that codec to play them; the Vado HD uses a format for which no QuickTime codec exists, so you need to install *Perian*. If you want to import into *iMovie*, convert them using *Handbrake*.

Both Flip models have their own video-editing software pre-loaded, ready to be installed on a Mac.

»TEST RESULTS

Creative Vado	★★★☆☆
Creative Vado HD	★★☆☆☆
Cisco Flip Ultra	★★★★☆
Cisco Flip Mino HD	★★★★★
Kodak Zi6	★★★★☆
Kodak Zx1	★★★★☆

The Flip Ultra uses XviD, which will need to be installed.

The Mino's films needed a little TLC in iMovie.

»TEST FOUR

Image quality

But what about the quality of the video produced?

All but two of the cameras here record in 'baby HD' (1280x720 pixels). Those that don't, the Creative Vado and the Flip Ultra, record at 640x480, which is still good for viewing on traditional CRT televisions, or for uploading to YouTube and the like.

Resolution is only part of the story, though. While the Flip Ultra's images are good – if a little soft – they're far superior to the washed out, blue-tinged output of the cheaper, standard-definition Vado.

Output from the HD version of the Vado is good, although it's over-processed and over-sharpened; we'd prefer control over that in post-processing.

The Flip Mino HD produces great detail and balance, but the whole image was a little muted and needed polishing up in *iMovie*.

Out of the box, the two Kodaks did the best. However, the colours were a little desaturated and dark, the output was perfectly usable; the Zi6 is the only model here to have a macro mode – albeit a low-tech mechanical switch.

»TEST RESULTS

Creative Vado	★☆☆☆☆
Creative Vado HD	★★★★☆
Cisco Flip Ultra	★★☆☆☆
Cisco Flip Mino HD	★★★★☆
Kodak Zi6	★★★★★
Kodak Zx1	★★★★☆

»PLAYBACK / Codec compatibility

For most of us, MP3 and AAC are the only two codecs we need to worry about for audio playback, the world of video playback is less clear-cut. Apple was an early proponent of the H.264 standard; it produces small files while having a minimal impact on the quality of the video, and it's understood natively by QuickTime and recent versions of iMovie. (H.264, mind you, is hard on a computer's processor, so you might find less able Macs struggle to play H.264-encoded video, a problem compounded with HD footage.)

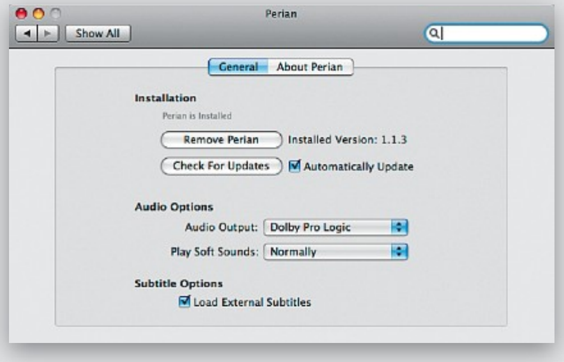
Both the Kodak Zi6 and Zx1, and the Flip Mini HD from this group record their video using the H.264 codec, and so they play nicest with the Mac. You can add support for other codecs by installing the individual codecs for QuickTime – some are listed below – or by installing a master-of-all-trades solution. If you just want to play clips, VLC from **www.videolan.org/vlc** will open most formats, but if you want to enable playback from within QuickTime, Perian (**perian.org**) is the tool you need.

QuickTime components:

WMV **www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/wmcomponents.mspx**

XviD **www.xvid.org/Software.83.0.html**

DivX **www.divx.com/en/products/software/mac/divx**



Perian is Installed

Installed Version: 1.1.3

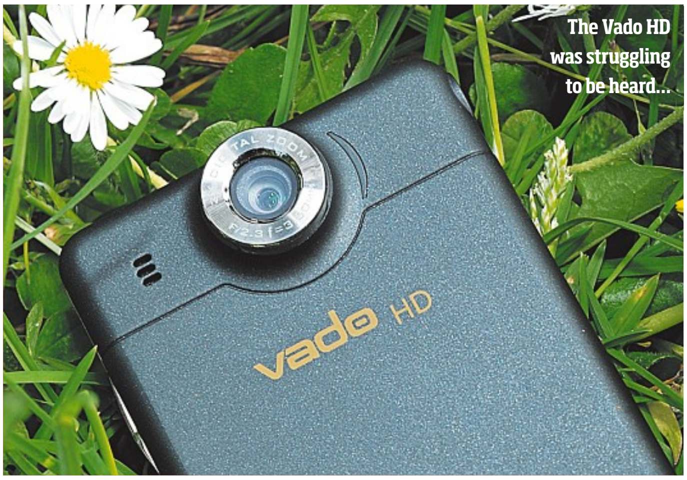
☑ Automatically Update

Audio Output: Dolby Pro Logic

Play Soft Sounds: Normally

☑ Load External Subtitles

Play back more types of video in QuickTime with the Perian codec.



The Vado HD was struggling to be heard...

TEST FIVE

Audio quality

We're in the age of talkies here; what's the audio like?

While all but the Creative Vado produce video that's at least passable, it's a different story when it comes to audio; only a couple of the models here produced anything approaching good audio.

Bottom of the heap, as with video, was the standard-definition Creative Vado. We tested the devices in the open air with plenty of distracting ambient noise, both close-to and at a distance. The Vado's captured audio was not only muffled, but quiet. From a few yards, our test subject was essentially inaudible. The Vado HD fared a little better, though it was still too low-volume.

The Flip Ultra was better than the Mino HD; we'd be happy using output from the Ultra.

The best audio came from the Kodak Zi6; even though it picked up a lot of wind noise, there was plenty of volume – which stood it in good stead when it came to recording from a distance – and good balance. The Zx1 fared much worse with tinny audio.

TEST RESULTS

Creative Vado	★☆☆☆☆
Creative Vado HD	★★☆☆☆
Cisco Flip Ultra	★★★★☆
Cisco Flip Mino HD	★★★★☆
Kodak Zi6	★★★★★
Kodak Zx1	★★★☆☆

TEST SIX

Value for money

Good value is definitely not the same as cheap

Around a hundred pounds might sound like good value for a DV camera but standard definition camcorders are now available for about this price too, so these are not quite the bargain they appear to be.

Still, there's no doubt that £50 for the Creative Vado is enticing. It fares ill here, though, because despite that low price, its woeful image and audio quality make it poor value for money.

Add another £30 – even though that's a big jump at this price range – and the £80 Flip Ultra represents a much more solid budget package.

The pretty Mini HD might bewitch all that gaze upon it with its sleek good looks, but it's very expensive next to the two HD cameras from Kodak, both of which offer more features and slightly punchier image quality.

The Zi6 gets the nod in the category; despite its bulk, it packs a lot into its £120 frame, and produces excellent video and the best audio of any of the devices here on test.

TEST RESULTS

Creative Vado	★★☆☆☆
Creative Vado HD	★★★☆☆
Cisco Flip Ultra	★★★☆☆
Cisco Flip Mino HD	★★★☆☆
Kodak Zi6	★★★★★
Kodak Zx1	★★★★☆

The inexpensive Creative Vado is sure to entice.

THE WINNER / Kodak Zi6

Emotionally, we want to give the gong to the Flip Mino HD. Its native H.264 recording, beautifully diminutive size, elegant user interface, flip-out USB port, and on-the-camera basic editing and sharing software for Mac and PC make it a really compelling choice, and it looks great to boot. At the end of the day, though, the video needs a little post-production punch-up in iMovie or Final Cut to stop it from looking washed out, and the audio is a bit thin; it's the most expensive on test here, too. Still, we can't help but love it, and if our hearts ruled our heads, this is the one we'd go for.

The Flip Ultra is a really cute gadget and would be great for kids; so don't be tempted by the mega-budget Creative Vado, as despite its great looks it produces video and audio that are plain unacceptable.

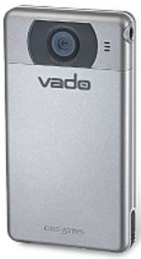
Ultimately, though, we were the most impressed with the brace of cameras presented by Kodak. The newer, smaller and more rugged Zx1 is perfectly nice enough, but we found the controls to be really fiddly. Also we were frustrated by its omission of a built-in USB connection - something all the others had - that we would have expected.

We therefore dub the Kodak Zi6 the winner. Yes, it's a little ungainly (although that bulk does actually mean it has a much bigger screen than its competitors) and the fact that you have to add your own SD card gets right on our wick. However, there's no doubting that it's terrific value for money, and produces very good video that you can open and import into iMovie with zero fuss. And that's perfectly good enough for us.

Mac FORMAT Winner!

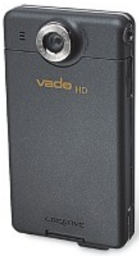
The Zi6 might be larger in comparison, but it produces excellent video.

COMPACT DV CAMERAS / AT A GLANCE



Creative Vado

★★☆☆☆



Creative Vado HD

★★★☆☆

Cisco Flip Ultra

★★★☆☆

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price	£51	£160	£80
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/595894	www.techradar.com/594896	www.techradar.com/595898
Maximum resolution	640x480 pixels	1,280x720 pixels	640x480 pixels
Import into iMovie	Not without transcoding	Not without transcoding	Not without transcoding
Internal memory	2GB	8GB	2GB
Viewfinder screen	5cm LCD	5cm LCD	3.8cm LCD
Power	Removable Li-ion battery	Removable Li-ion battery	AA cells
Video out	Composite	HDMI, Composite (HDMI cable included)	Composite (cable included)
Warranty	One year	One year	One year
Dimensions	10x5.5x2.2cm	10x5.5x2.2cm	10.6x5.5x3.2cm
Weight	84g	101g	147g

COMPACT DV CAMERAS / AT A GLANCE

Cisco Flip Mino HD

★★★★☆

Kodak Zi6

Mac FORMAT Winner!

★★★★★

Kodak Zx1

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price	£170	£120	£139
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/595902	www.techradar.com/595931	www.techradar.com/595933
Maximum resolution	1,280x720 pixels	1,280x720 pixels	1,280x720 pixels
Import into iMovie	Yes	Yes	Yes
Internal memory	4GB	128MB (expandable with SD/SDHC cards)	128MB (expandable with SD/SDHC cards)
Viewfinder screen	3.8cm LCD	6cm LCD	5cm LCD
Power	Non-removable Li-ion battery	AA cells (rechargeables and charger supplied)	AA cells (rechargeables and charger supplied)
Video out	Composite (cable included)	Component, Composite (both cables included)	HDMI, Composite (both cables included)
Warranty	One year	One year	One year
Dimensions	10x5x1.6cm	6.4x11.4x2.4cm	5x10.7x2cm
Weight	94g	165g	150g

computer
# arts

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Turn over for full contents!

"Apple's 24-inch LED Cinema Display oozes quality all round"

>> BUYING A DISPLAY P120

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Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- LAPTOPS
- iPODS
- iPHONES
- SOFTWARE

Graham Barlow
Editor

As the Editor of *MacFormat*, there's one question I get asked regularly: "When is the best time to buy a new Mac?" The truth is, nobody really knows. When you buy a new Mac you always risk Apple announcing a newer, faster version – usually for the same price, a few short weeks later. You're then left owning a machine that has already been superseded. Sadly there's not much you can do to prevent this because Apple doesn't let anyone know about new products before its official announcements – not even us. It's worth checking the Apple rumour websites on the week of your purchase, but remember that they are still rumours.

When people ask me if they should buy a new Mac, my advice is always to go for it. Even if a newer version comes out (which will happen eventually anyway), you'll still own a great Mac that will do everything you want it to for many years to come, so just enjoy it.

>> BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence.

For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.

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How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you make the right choice

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

For professional 3D graphics rendering tasks you can upgrade a Mac Pro to the ATI Radeon HD 4870, with 512MB of GDDR5 memory.

The last few months have seen updates to most of Apple's Mac range. All Apple desktops were updated in March and the 15-inch MacBook Pro also saw a slight speed boost. Apple's entry-level Mac, the Mac mini, had a long-overdue upgrade, with more power, hard drive space and RAM. You now have the choice of a 120GB or 320GB hard drive with 1GB or 2GB RAM respectively. With prices starting from £499, it's a great Mac to switch to from a PC.

> "Desktop Macs are more powerful, but if you need to use your Mac on the go, Apple's laptops certainly won't leave you disappointed"

The all-in-one iMac has updated processor speeds, RAM and hard drive space up to 1TB. They're perfect for graphic design or using the great *iLife* apps, and there's plenty of space to save your masterpieces. And not to be left out, the Mac Pro now comes as either Quad-Core or 8-Core, offering the most powerful Mac to date.

Desktop Macs are more powerful, but Apple's laptops won't leave you disappointed, either.

Making your mind up

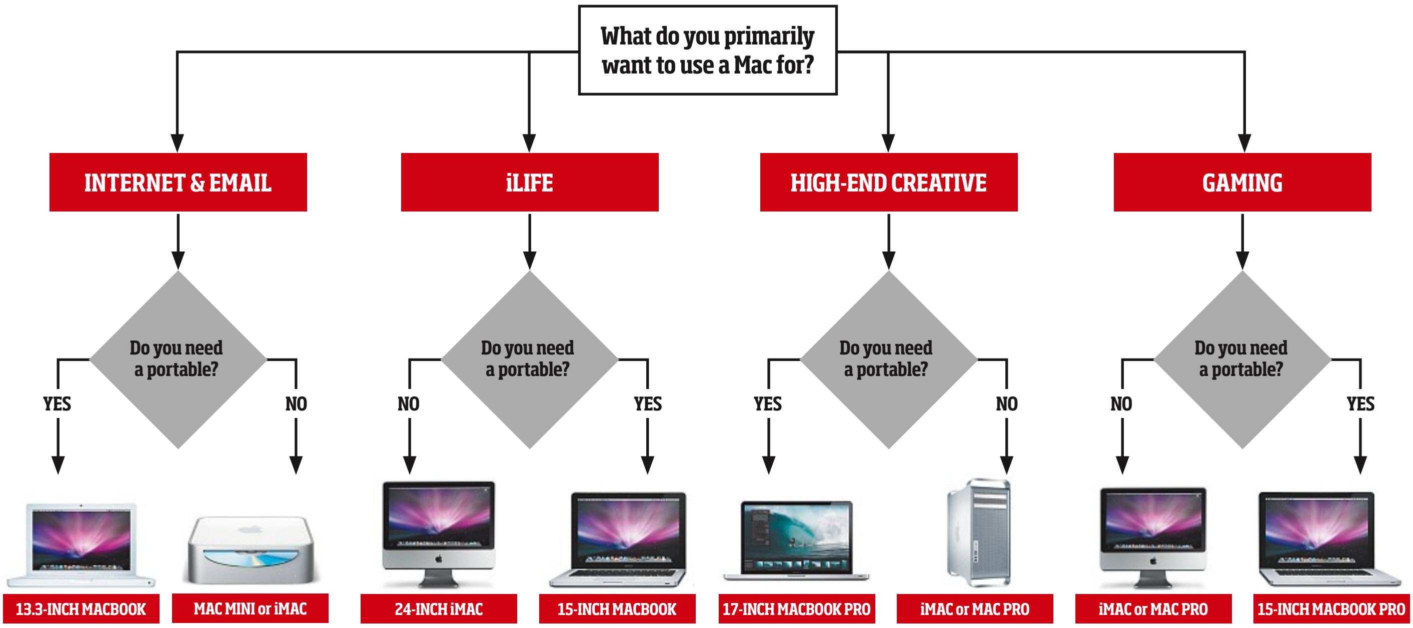
All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips, as a minimum, meaning that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful. So now you need to choose whether you need a laptop or a desktop. If you work on the move then you need a laptop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £719 with the white 13-inch version, and is great for less intensive work, such as the *iLife* apps. The aluminium 13-inch MacBook (starting at £929) has the same screen size but a glossy screen, a bigger hard drive and faster memory. The 2.4GHz model (at £1,125) has an even bigger hard drive and an illuminated keyboard, so when the ambient light dims, the keys light up.

As its name suggests, the MacBook Pro, starting at £1,369, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. The 2.66GHz 17-inch version now lasts up to eight hours on one single battery charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before. The MacBook Pro is great

Apple offers three choices of desktop Mac. The Mac mini may look tiny, but it packs a punch.

CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
13.3-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
NO
YES
24-INCH iMAC
15-INCH MACBOOK
YES
NO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
NO
YES
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

for designers needing that extra power and storage space. Finally, the thin and light MacBook Air lacks ports and a built-in DVD drive, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. An external SuperDrive will set you back an extra £64.

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4 or 2.66GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.66GHz version, too. You can upgrade the 2.66GHz Pro to 2.93GHz for an extra £206. The MacBook and MacBook Air have 13-inch screens.

> *"The 2.66GHz 17-inch MacBook Pro lasts up to eight hours on one charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before"*

Mac desktops

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £499 you get a 2.0GHz machine with 1GB RAM and 120GB hard drive, or a 2.0GHz with 2GB RAM and 320GB hard drive for £649. You will need to provide a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.93GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz with a 1TB hard drive, from £949. These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro, although for really intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,899, but with the options of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,173 or the 24-inch LED display at £635.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the new *iLife '09* suite. ●

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Apple's latest aluminium MacBooks have an enclosure made from a single piece of aluminium, which makes them light, yet robust.

The latest portable Macs come complete with a gorgeous and hard-wearing aluminium finish.

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Updated March 2009

20-inch 2.66GHz

£949

2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
20-inch glossy widescreen (1,680x1,050 pixels)
2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
320GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory
4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.66GHz

£1,199

2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
640GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory
4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

iMac

24-inch 2.93GHz

£1,499

2.93GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
640GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 256MB of GDDR3 memory
4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 3.06GHz

£1,799

3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
1TB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce GT 130 with 512MB of GDDR3 memory
4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?
The speedier new Mac mini now has five USB 2.0 ports and one FireWire 800 port.

Updated March 2009

2.0GHz 120GB

£499

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB RAM (1x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
120GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
3MB shared L2 cache
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 128MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
1x FireWire 800 port; 5x USB 2.0
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09 and Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Mac mini

2.0GHz 320GB

£649

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
3MB shared L2 cache
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
1x FireWire 800 port; 5x USB 2.0
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09 and Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

MacBook

13-inch white 2.0GHz
£719
13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels
2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR2 SDRAM)
120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0

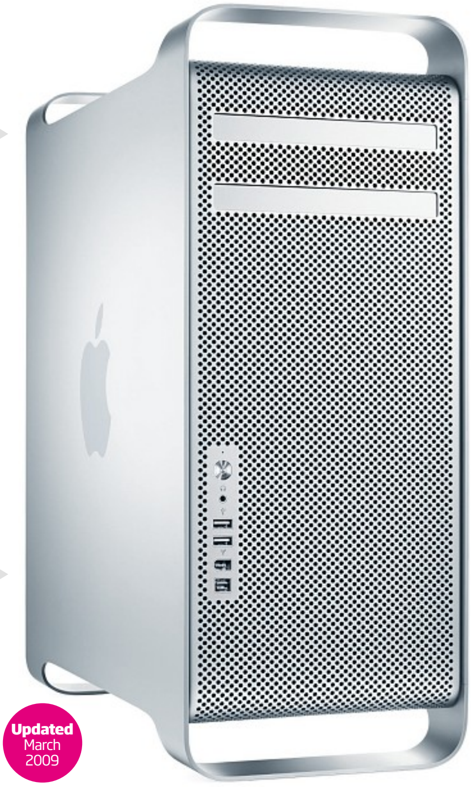
Updated January 2009

13-inch 2.0GHz
£929
13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard

13-inch 2.4GHz
£1,125
13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard

Mac Pro

Quad-Core
£1,899
2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM)
NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
640GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots
5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
Apple keyboard and Mighty Mouse



Updated March 2009

8-Core
£2,499
2x 2.66Hz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM)
NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
640GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots
5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
Apple keyboard and Mighty Mouse

MacBook Air

Updated October 2008

13-inch 1.6GHz
£1,271
13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
120GB 4,200-rpm SATA hard drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch 1.86GHz
£1,761
13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
128GB solid-state drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

MacBook Pro

15-inch 2.4GHz
£1,369
15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium unibody
Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09
1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0 ports

15-inch 2.66GHz
£1,712
15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
6MB shared L2 cache
4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600 GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium unibody
Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09
1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0 ports

Updated March 2009

17-inch 2.66GHz
£1,949
17-inch hi-resolution glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 6MB shared L2 cache
4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
320GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600 GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium body
Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09
1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0 ports

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> *"The iPod touch has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's simply a joy to use"*

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find your ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your **iTunes** window when you're clicked on **Library** – you can get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices.

While most of us only listen to a fraction of our music – thanks to Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the 1GB iPod shuffle. Also available is a new 4GB shuffle, in black or silver, which introduces the VoiceOver technology. This enables the iPod to tell you what song is playing, who's performing it and what your playlist is called.

Slimline nano

The best compromise is the iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5-inch screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and the 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient. The choice of colour is vast, and there's a nano for everyone.

The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone. ●

Updated September 2008

iPod classic

iPod classic 120GB

£175

Up to 30,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 150 hours of video
Available in black and silver
2.5-inch screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
103.5x61.8x10.5mm
140g

iPod shuffle 4GB

£59

Up to 1,000 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver and black
No screen
VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
45.2x17.5x7.8mm
10.7g

Updated March 2009

iPod shuffle

iPod shuffle 1GB

£31

Up to 240 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
No screen
Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
27.3x41.2x10.5mm
15.6g

Mac FORMAT This Week

iPod nano

Updated
September
2008

iPod nano 8GB

£107

Up to 2,000 songs
Up to 7,000 photos
Up to 8 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£146

Up to 4,000 songs
Up to 14,000 photos
Up to 16 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPhone 3G

Updated
June
2008

AT&T 3G
9:42 AM
Text
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
Maps
Weather
Clock
Calculator
Notes
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod

iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm, 133g

iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video
Available in black or white
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm, 133g

iPod touch

Updated
September
2008

iPod touch 8GB

£165

Up to 1,750 songs
Up to 10,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 16GB

£214

Up to 3,500 songs
Up to 20,000 photos
Up to 20 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 32GB

£283

Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH

Of course, the iPhone is not just a phone - it's also a fantastic iPod. Steve Jobs even called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB, 16GB and 32GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, it's identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make phone calls. Fair enough, you might think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet - browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email - when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that an iPhone will cost you a lot more. You will either have to take out an 18-month contract with O2, or buy it as a pay-as-you-go phone from £342.50 (more than double the outlay cost of the 8GB iPod touch).

You do miss out on some stuff - the touch lacks the iPhone's (admittedly poor) camera, though the second generation model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original - twice as quick in Apple's testing - but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

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BUYERS' GUIDE

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £48 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Dimensions: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Connections: Bluetooth only; Power: 3x AA batteries; Requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

⊕ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
⊖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Intuos4 L ★★★★★

Price: £430 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/590021
Key specs: 5,080lpi res; 2,083 levels of sensitivity
⊕ Sensational technology; dynamic OLEDs
⊖ Expensive; previous tools incompatible

Microsoft Mobile Memory ★★★★★

Price: £50 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF/Bluetooth
⊕ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB
⊖ Odd acceleration behaviour

ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP620

★★★★½

Price: £108 **Reviewed**: Issue 202
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/477048
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi); 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in cassette

⊕ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
⊖ WiFi needs to be set up over USB

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy."

Canon PIXMA MP610 ★★★★★

Price: £87 **Reviewed**: Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi
⊕ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
⊖ Slow duplex printing

Canon PIXMA MX700 ★★★★☆

Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR
⊕ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
⊖ No duplex

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★★★

Price: £1,173 **Reviewed:** Issue 155
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/133337
Key specs: 30-inch screen, 2,560x1,600, 16.7 million colours, DVI display, 2x USB 2.0 ports, 2x FireWire 400

⊕ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
⊖ Need a lot of room to house it!

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with its Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are top-notch."

Sharp Aquos LC32X20E ★★★★★

Price: £517 **Reviewed**: Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res
⊕ Great Mac and TV picture quality
⊖ Need a lot of room to house it!

Apple 24-inch LED Cinema ★★★½☆

Price: £635 **Reviewed**: Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24 inches; 1,920x1,200 pixels
⊕ Oozes quality all round
⊖ Expensive and Mini DisplayPort only

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007

★★★★★

Price: £396 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/98316
Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 4x 16W RMS

⊕ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
⊖ Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."

Acoustic Energy Aego-M ★★★★★

Price: £124 **Reviewed**: Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/100419
Key specs: Twin satellites; 90 RMS output
⊕ Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
⊖ Not many extra features

Creative Gigaworks T20 II ★★★½☆

Price: £60 **Reviewed**: Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500205
Key specs: 14 watts RMS; 50Hz-20KHz
⊕ Superb, room-filling sound; solid construction
⊖ Slightly unnatural bass response

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd

★★★★★

Price: £120 **Reviewed**: Issue 197
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12MP; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation

⊕ Great value; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
⊖ Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The FinePix F50fd is £120 well spent."

Canon EOS 40D ★★★★★

Price: £560 **Reviewed**: Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/69985
Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing
⊕ Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras
⊖ Some idiosyncratic functions

Pentax Optio M50 ★★★★½

Price: £89 **Reviewed**: Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/414376
Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zooms
⊕ Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
⊖ Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £498 **Reviewed**: Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £599 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills & video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Canon HG10 ★★★★½

Price: £540 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom
⊕ Superb images; native support for iMovie '08
⊖ Ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AirPort Extreme Base

★★★★★

Price: £139 **Reviewed**: Issue 181
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP, WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

⊕ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
⊖ UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network in minutes."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £110 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

Apple AirPort Express ★★★★½

Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2
⊕ Easy to set up; AirTunes; supports Windows
⊖ Still need to add a broadband router

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax

★★★★★

Price: £80
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) & 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) transfer speeds

⊕ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; Mac mini shape; very fast
⊖ Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini has substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."

Iomega eGo Helium 320GB ★★★★☆

Price: £90 **Reviewed**: Issue 204
Full review: www.techradar.com/492523
Key specs: 320GB capacity; USB 2.0 interface
⊕ Pretty design; solid performance
⊖ USB only; case scratches easily

Apple Time Capsule 500GB ★★★★☆

Price: £229 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589636
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ n & g networks run at full speed; USB disk
⊖ Expensive; no built-in modem; slow first backup

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BUYERS' GUIDE

iPOD ACCESSORIES

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

★★★★★

Price: £108 **Reviewed:** Issue 193
Web: www.iskin.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/224088
Key specs: Turn iPod into a remote; 10m range; easy USB connection

⊕ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
⊖ High price

"This little accessory offers a very obvious improvement over the way people normally use iPod speakers."

Griffin Clarifi ★★★★★

Price: £19 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Full review: www.techradar.com/476914
Key specs: iPhone 3G case; built-in macro lens
⊕ Macro lens for better quality close-ups; sturdy
⊖ Nothing

Macally TunePro Flat Panel ★★★★★

Price: £80 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218943
Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg
⊕ Great sound; easy-to-slap snooze button
⊖ Remote sold separately

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III

★★★★★

Price: £195 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Web: www.project-audio.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/102079
Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk

⊕ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
⊖ Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is outstanding - and that's before you add a USB interface."

Line 6 Pocket Pod ★★★★★

Price: £79 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/457821
Key specs: 300+ presets; 16 effects; CD/MP3 jack
⊕ Portable; good price; fully Mac-compatible
⊖ Clunky interface; lacks some pro functions

Macally Powerlink 3-in-1 ★★★★☆

Price: £42 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087
Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0
⊕ Very versatile; convenient for travellers
⊖ Expensive; loose caps easily lost

iPHONE APPLICATIONS

NetNewsWire

★★★★★

Feeds
Blogs
SFTGE
Gadgets
BoingBoing
Engadget
Gizmodo

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 199
Web: www.newsgator.com
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.0
Available from the App Store, directly through your iPhone or via iTunes.

⊕ Sync with your Mac's copy of NNW using the newsgator.com site
⊖ Can't mark already-read items as unread

"There is no better RSS reader for the Mac or the iPhone, and keeping read items in sync between both is superb."

Birdhouse ★★★★★

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.1

⊕ Draft multiple Twitter notes before you tweet
⊖ Only useful if you are a complete Twitter addict

LogMeIn Ignition ★★★★☆

Price: £17.99 **Reviewed:** Issue 203
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.0

⊕ Reliable remote control of computers over web
⊖ iPhone's paltry RAM causes problems; pricey

EMAIL CLIENTS

Apple Mail 3.3

★★★★★

Price: £85 (with OS X) **Reviewed:** Issue 198
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/591016
System reqs: 9867MHz Mac, 512MB RAM, 9GB HD space, DVD drive, Mac OS X 10.5

⊕ Easy to install and use; good spam protection; excellent search filters
⊖ Need Leopard for latest version

"Apple Mail is more mature and more reliable than the competition. It's great for home or business use."

Mozilla Thunderbird ★★★★½

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 198
Full review: www.techradar.com/142475
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.2 or later
⊕ Excellent spam protections; simple setup
⊖ Not perfect OS X integration

Microsoft Entourage 2008 ★★★★☆

Price: £100 (with Office) **Reviewed:** Issue 198
Full review: www.techradar.com/142428
System reqs: 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Ease of use and setup can't be faulted
⊖ No integrated RSS reader

HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended).

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

Micromat TechTool Pro 5 ★★★★★

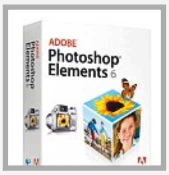
Price: £87 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/528167
System reqs: G4/G5; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Comprehensive tools; reliable performance
⊖ Won't book Oct '08 MacBooks; expensive

FileMaker Pro 10 ★★★★★

Price: £261 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500402
System reqs: G4/G5; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.11
⊕ Script triggers; customisable toolbar; SMTP
⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Photoshop Elements 6


★★★★★

Price: £68 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB rec); 64MB VRAM, 1GB hard disk space

⊕ Good interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves
⊖ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."

Live Interior 3D 2.0 ★★★★★

Price: £34 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500278
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.8; 1GB HD space
⊕ Lots of objects & materials; fast renders; value
⊖ Can't create furniture; some features only in Pro

Realmac RapidWeaver ★★★★☆

Price: £59 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/587724 **System reqs:** Mac OS X 10.5
⊕ Easy for a beginner, but also advanced options
⊖ Very template based; unimpressive Flash

GAMES

Spore

★★★★★

Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Web: www.spore.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space

⊕ Great looks; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
⊖ Too simplistic?

"Spore is an amazing experience on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's amazing."

Jade Empire: Special Edition ★★★★☆

Price: £35 **Reviewed:** Issue 204
Web: www.gametreeonline.com
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.4.11+
⊕ Great story; fun combat; entertaining guests
⊖ Relatively short

LEGO Indiana Jones ★★★★☆

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.feralinteractive.com
System reqs: Intel 1.8GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.8
⊕ Loads of levels; cooperative play; in-jokes
⊖ Awkward keyboard controls; formulaic

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio

★★★★★

Price: £312 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 screen; QuickTime 7.2 or later; 7GB HD space

⊕ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive interface
⊖ Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is a comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."

Apple iPhoto '09 ★★★★★

Price: £69 (part of iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: G4/G5; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.5.6
⊕ Practical tools; new options to export slideshow
⊖ Faces could be better; few cameras have GPS

Apple iTunes 8 ★★★★★

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551 **System reqs:** G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
⊖ Genius recommendations affect performance

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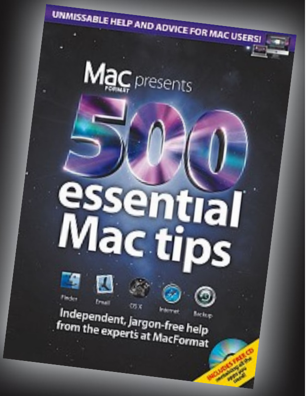
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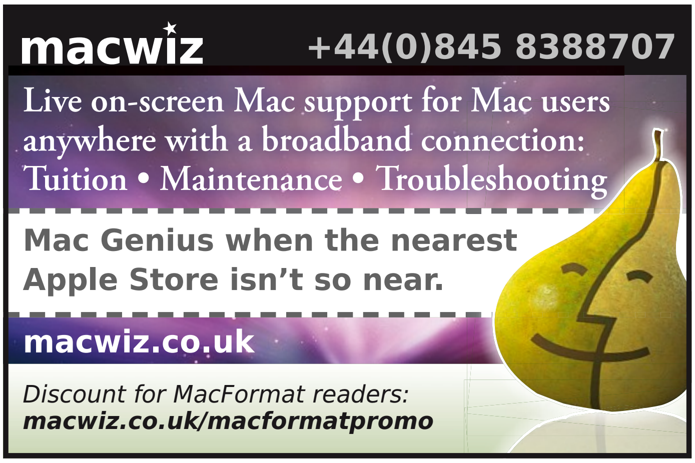

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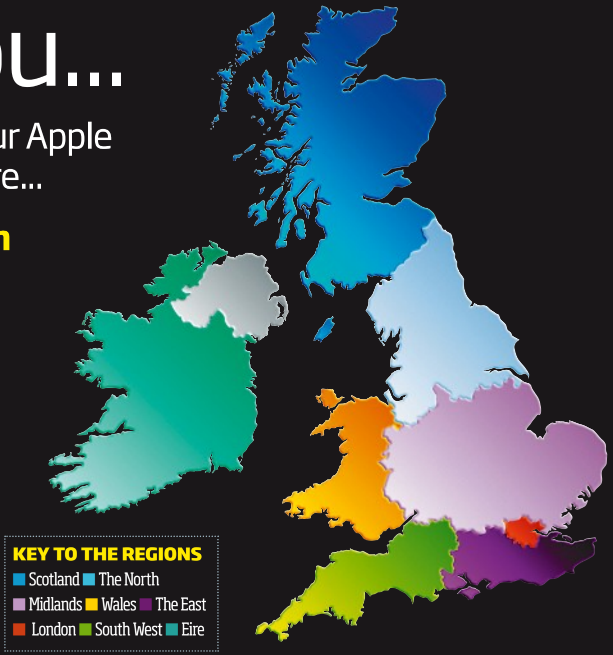

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On the disc

● FULL SOFTWARE ● EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ● ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ● READER OFFERS

Welcome to the disc

Issue 209

Welcome to the second issue of your new-look *MacFormat* disc. This issue we've pulled out all the stops to jam as much great content as possible onto your disc. If, like me, you're disorganised when it comes to workload, you'll be pleased to hear that we have a full software-based remedy for your problem.

Fanurio is a tool designed to assist in any freelance work undertaken. It lets you manage all sub-tasks through the creation of projects. Everything from contract creation and client contacts to projects items and expenses. My favourite feature is a mini view that provides quick access to a timer so that you can count the time spent on tasks.

> *"My favourite feature is a mini view that lets you count the time spent on tasks…"*

But, *Fanurio*'s just one of three full products that have previously sold for real cash and we're crazily giving them away for free. Also, feel free to browse the rest of the disc for more great stuff. If you get stuck there's a step by step on the opposite page, or you can always request help on the *MacFormat* forum at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk/**.

Each issue, Disc Editor Simon Holland selects a fantastic array of software, from games to shareware, for you to enjoy on your Mac.

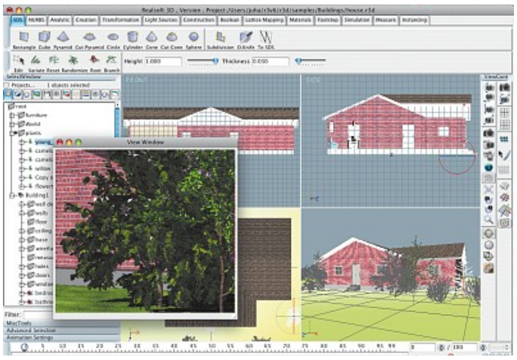
>> FEATURED SOFTWARE

Realsoft 3D 6

Modelling, rendering and animation software

3D software can be high-end and boasting powerful output of remarkable content, but requiring a degree devoted to the learning of the application. Or there's the inexpensive software aimed at the casual user, which generally lacks too many features to be remotely useful.

We've included a full version of a 3D app that boasts outstanding features as well as ease of use. *Realsoft 3D* adopts an open modular approach enabling you to add features without the extra cost.



Realsoft 3D 6 is an outstanding app that's also very easy to use.

>> FEATURED SOFTWARE

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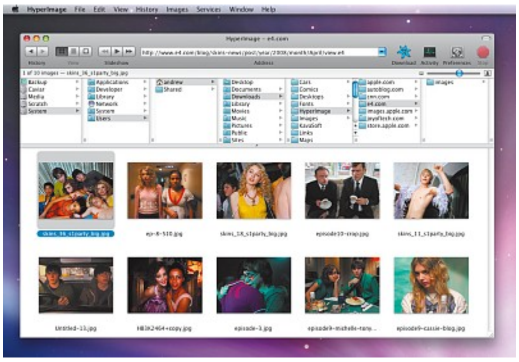

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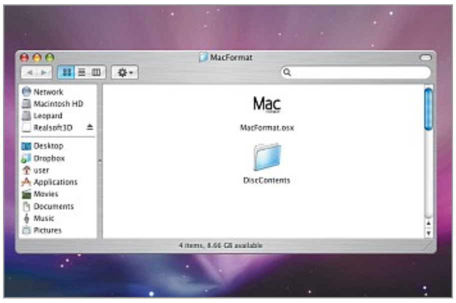
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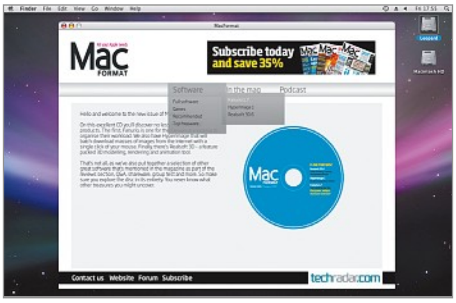
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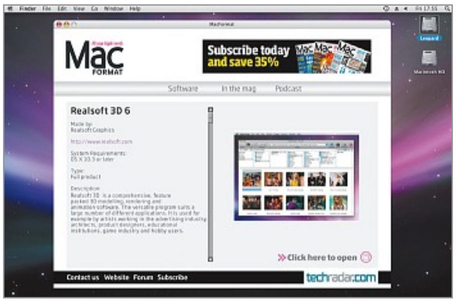
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03 Getting the apps

Selecting an item will load details about the software. To delve straight into the app, click **Click here to open**. An installer will load or you will go to a window to extract the archive or execute the setup file manually.

Full disc contents

The complete list to what you'll find on your disc this issue

SOFTWARE

Full software

Fanurio 1.7
Hyperlmage 1
Realsoft 3D 6

Games

And Yet It Moves 1.4

Recommended

Fanurio 2.0
HyperImage 2.0.2

Top freeware

Fairmount 1.0.4
Folding@home 6.24.1
MindNode 1.3.1
Monitor 2.4
PasswordVault Lite 6.2.1
Quick-Do 20090425
Safari Cookies 0.5
Simplify Media 2.0.0.1241
smcFanControl 2.2.2
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IN THE MAG

Group test

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Q&A

Pacifist 2.5.2

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Keith's Image Stacker 5.0
Lynkeos 2.4
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Sky Chart 3
Stellarium 0.10.2

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WeatherCal 1.0

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Equinox 6.11
Fresh 1.1.2

Widgets

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